Discovering the Prom on Foot

Victorian National Parks Association Inc.
Conservation & Environment Victoria

A guide to 25 walks, including four nature walks, in Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Revised Edition

A joint publication of The Department of Conservation and Environment, Victoria, and the Victorian National Parks Association.

The Department of Conservation and Environment, created in 1990, is the State government's agency responsible for the administration and management of Victoria's public land, including its national parks. The National Parks and Wildlife Division within the Department prepares statewide policies, programs, plans and standards for areas under the National Parks Act; management is the responsibility of the Department's 16 regions. Wilsons Promontory National Park is in the Yarram region.

The **Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA)** is a voluntary conservation body, founded in 1952. Membership is open to all who are interested in the conservation of our bushland. The VNPA offers outdoor activities such as bushwalking and camping and the opportunity to help in parks with 'Friends' groups. A 'Friends of the Prom' group meets quarterly for weekend activities at the Prom. The Association also has regular meetings and members receive a magazine and a newsletter. New members are welcome. Contact VNPA at:

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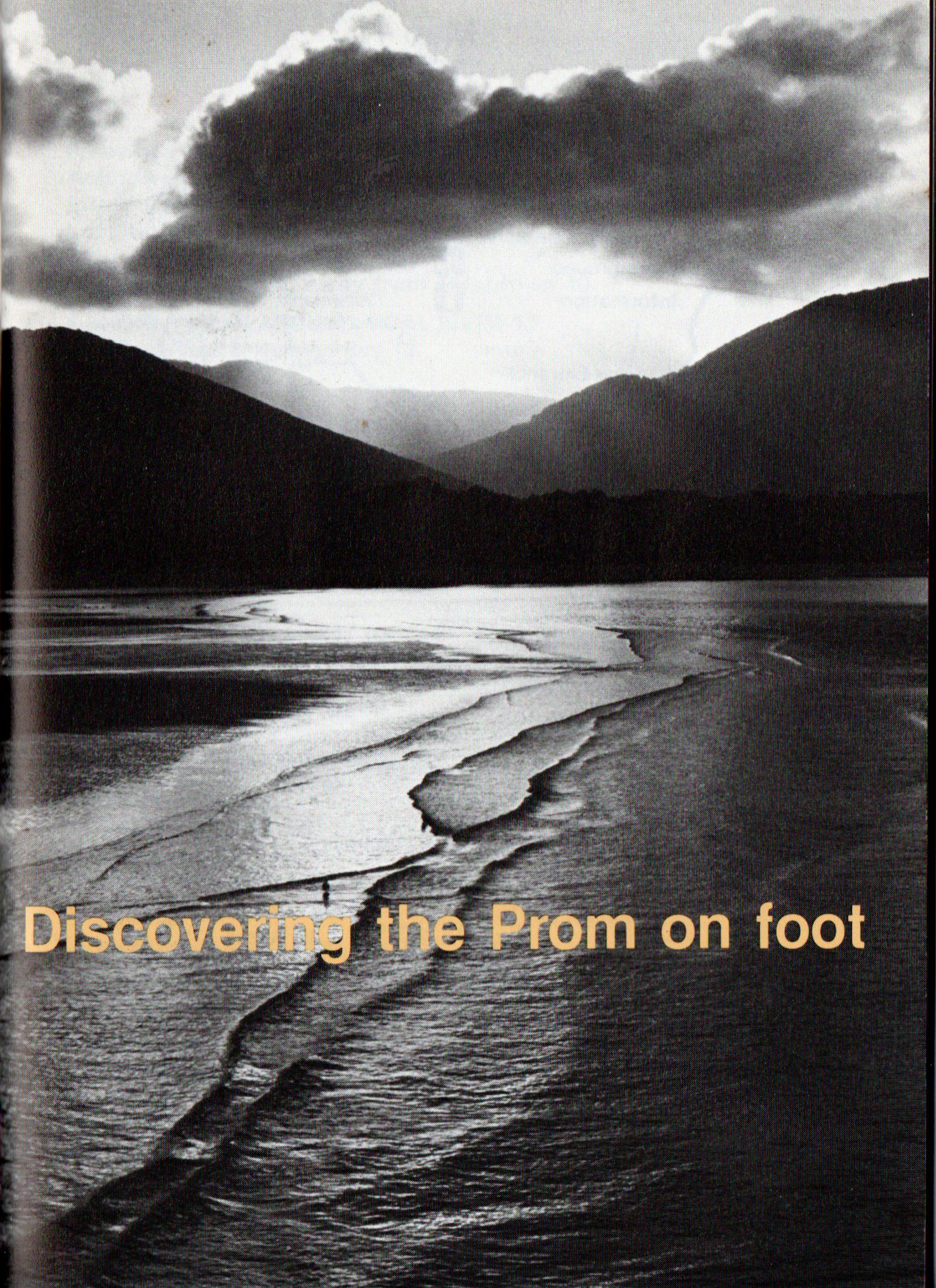
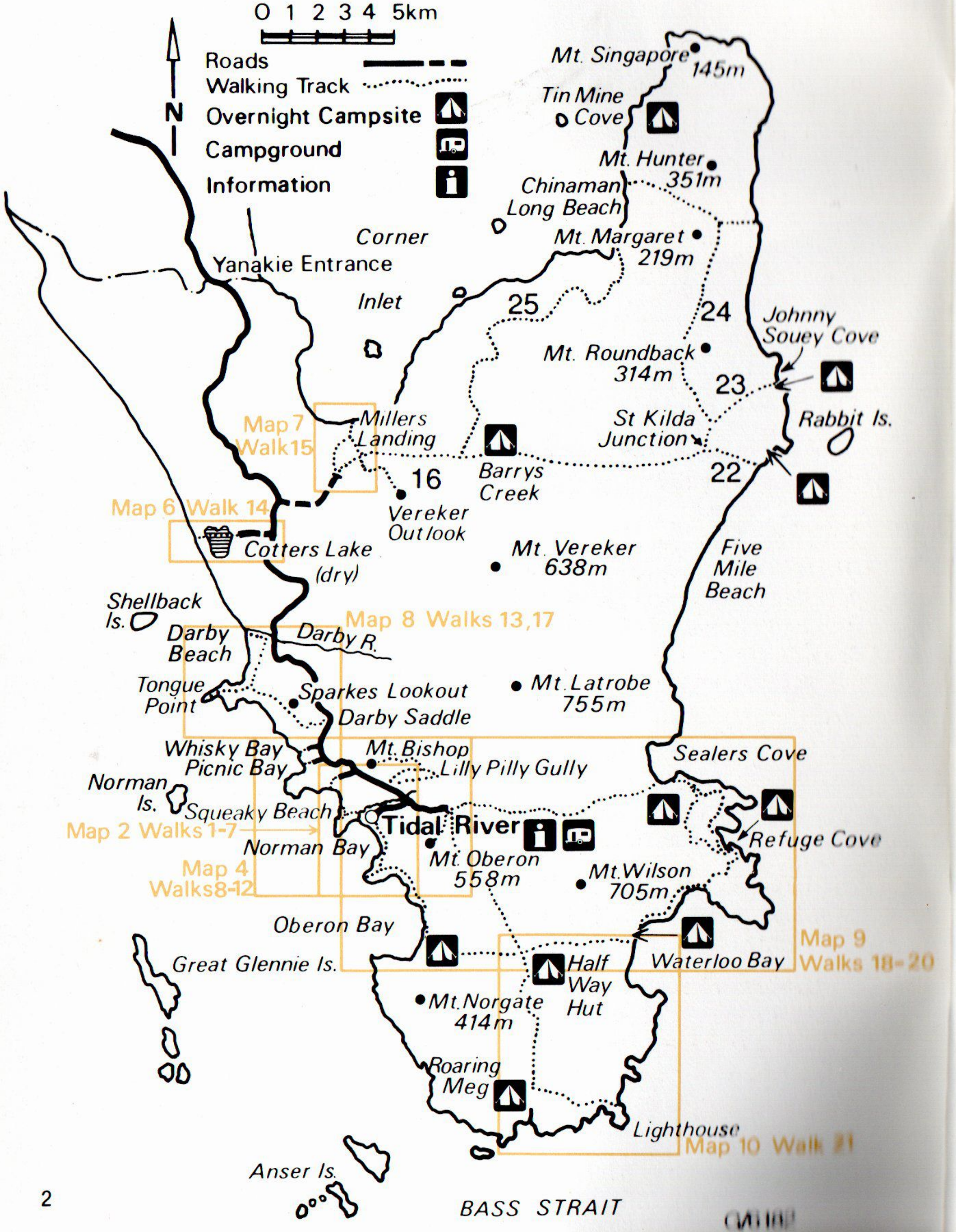


Discovering the Prom on foot

Map 1



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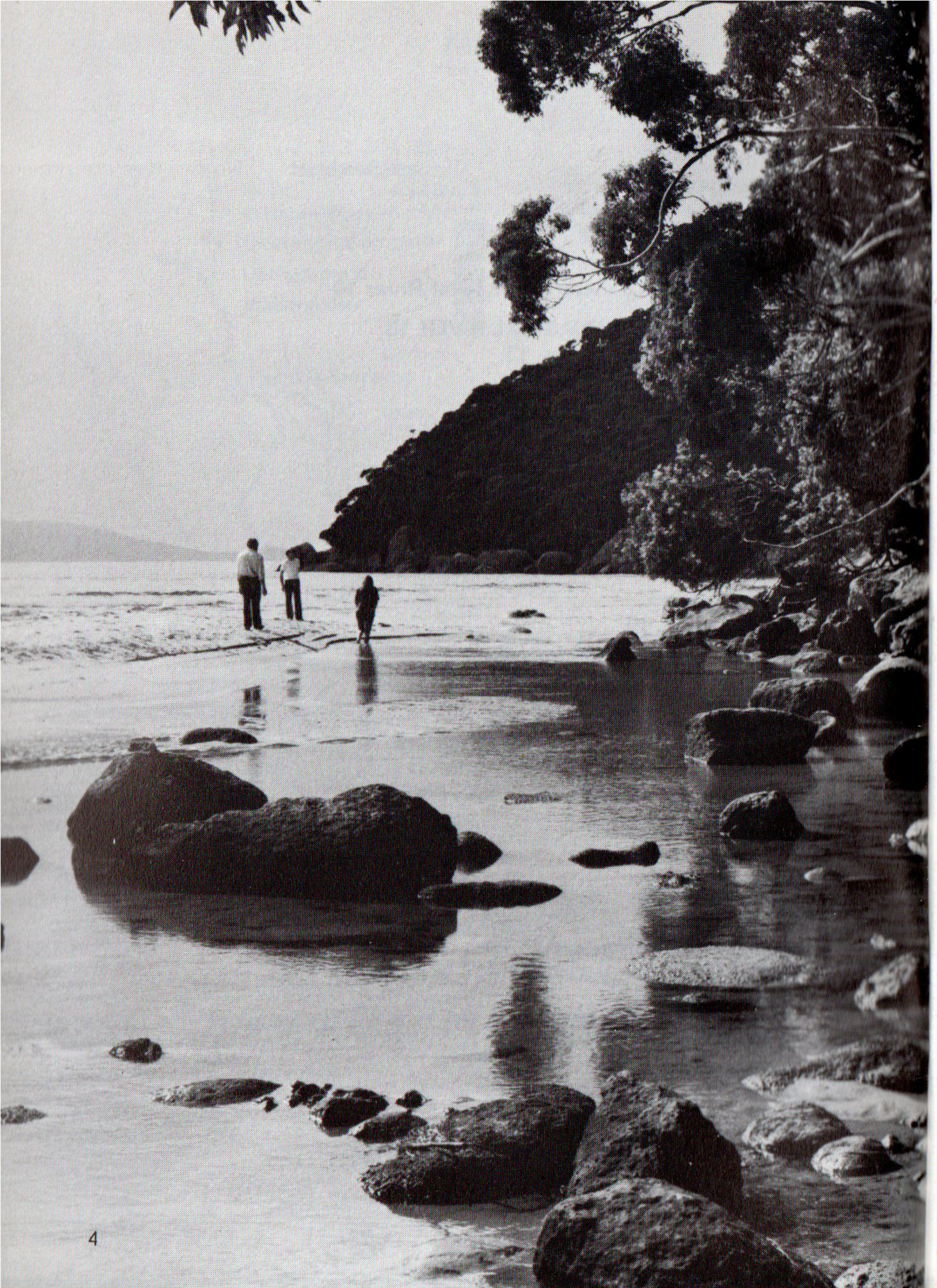


Sealers Cove

Foreword

"The Prom", as it is affectionately known by its many devotees, is one of Australia's greatest national parks. It also rates very highly on the world scale, having been declared an International Biosphere Reserve in 1981.

Some of the delights and diversities of Wilsons Promontory National Park can be enjoyed without moving far from your car, but such is the nature of the park that the more you explore the more you will enjoy it – and the best way to explore is on foot.

This publication, now in its seventh edition, is designed to enable visitors to walk The Prom with confidence and obtain the most from their experiences. Descriptions are given of self-guided nature walks, coastal and bush walks, short strolls, day walks, overnight hikes and tracks suitable for people with disabilities. There is also useful information on the national park and its facilities, hiking hints and equipment.

The Victorian National Parks Association is both congratulated and thanked for its support with this publication, which has been in constant demand since it was first published in 1982.

I hope that this booklet enables readers to obtain even more pleasure from each visit to this great national park. Enjoy the park – it is yours!

D.S. Saunders
Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Acknowledgements

Through its several editions, many members of staff have contributed to the production of this book, in particular Robin Crocker, Michael Howes, Phil Smith, Sandra Bardwell, Peter Thomas, Gill Anderson and Scott Campbell.

The maps were originally prepared by Roger Cassar of the Central Drafting Service of the former Ministry for Conservation. Additional design work on the 1989 edition was carried out by Joanne Harrison of the Community Education and Information Branch of the Department.

Unless otherwise indicated, photographs are from the collections of the Department of Conservation and Environment.

In June 1987 the Plan of Management for Wilsons Promontory National Park was published. This will guide management of the park for the following five years.

An introduction to the park

One of Victoria's most spectacular national parks, Wilsons Promontory has long been popular with bushwalkers and tourists. The park is 230 km south-east of Melbourne. Access is via the South Gippsland Highway to Meeniyan or Foster from where sealed roads lead to the park entrance.

Bygone days

Aborigines once gathered shellfish around the shores, but little evidence of their activities remains today.

In the early 1800s, sealers and whalers operated around the Promontory, as the name Sealers Cove recalls. Other activities have included timber-cutting, tin mining and grazing, and during World War 2, commando training. The lighthouse on South-east Cape was built in 1859.

Concern for the threat of exploitation of the Prom's resources and for the preservation of its outstanding natural features led to its permanent reservation as a national park in 1905. Additions since have brought the park to its present size (almost 49 000 ha).

Granite and sand

The main part of the Promontory is a granite mass, forming rugged ranges rising to 754 m at Mt Latrobe.

Several times in the last million years, changes in sea-level have turned Wilsons Promontory into an island. This last occurred about 120 000 years ago, after which sand gradually built up in the gap between the island and the mainland, forming the Yanakie Isthmus.

The Promontory was subsequently joined to Tasmania by a land bridge which was broken by a rise in sea level about 15 000 years ago.

Habitats and wildlife

Many different habitats occur in the park, and over 700 species of native plants are recorded. There are tall forests on the mountain slopes, luxuriant fern gullies in the valleys, open heaths, and swamps. All these provide shelter and food for native mammals and birds. Kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, wombats and possums are some of the mammals you can see, and emus, rosellas, lorikeets, wattle birds and numerous seabirds are among the many birds.

Marine Park and Reserve

Surrounding Wilsons Promontory National Park are several marine and coastal parks and reserves.

Located around the southern coastline is the Wilsons Promontory Marine Reserve, a 300 metre wide, totally protected zone around the rocky reefs between Norman Bay and Refuge Cove. The Reserve is an area of spectacular underwater scenery and rich marine life. All types of amateur fishing are prohibited in this area and commercial fishing will be phased out.

The Wilsons Promontory Marine Park covers the eastern and western coastlines of the Promontory, north of the Marine Reserve. It has long, sandy beaches, rocky reefs and offshore islands and includes some excellent sites for diving and snorkelling.

Corner Inlet Marine and Coastal Park, north of the National Park, is a large shallow tidal area with significant areas for migratory wading birds, and extensive saltbush areas. Similar features are found at the islands and mudflats of Nooramunga Coastal Park to the east and at Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park, on the western side of the Yanakie Isthmus.

Things to see and do

The park offers many recreation and education opportunities in addition to the walks described in this book.

- The entrance road is one of Victoria's most attractive drives.
- Beautiful beaches provide opportunities for relaxing, swimming and surfing.
- A track built specially for people with limited mobility at Tidal River.
- There are numerous picnic spots and scenic lookouts.
- During major holiday periods, rangers guide visitors on walks and spotlight tours, lead children's activities and give slide talks.
- An information centre at Tidal River contains displays and information on all aspects of the park.

Accommodation and facilities

The park offers a range of accommodation from flats and lodges to motor huts and campsites. Full details are available from the Department of Conservation and Environment. Notes on camping away from Tidal River are included in this book.

There is a general store, a take-away food shop and a post office at Tidal River. Petrol and L.P. gas are also available.

Looking after the park

National Parks don't look after themselves. Please help by following the common-sense regulations that apply in Wilsons Promontory National Park.

- **Pets and firearms**
  Firearms and pets (including dogs, cats and pet birds) are not allowed in the park.
- **Native plants and animals**
  All plants, animals, rocks and soils in the park are protected and must not be disturbed.
  The coast between Sealers Cove and Norman Bay is in Wilsons Promontory Marine Reserve. Please check at the Information Centre about restrictions on fishing.
- **Litter**
  The motto for all walkers is ''Carry out what you carry in''. Do not bury or leave food, cans, plastic, glass, paper or other rubbish in the park. You can help by collecting litter left by thoughtless visitors. Keep the Prom beautiful! And remember, the pit toilets are NOT rubbish bins.
- **Fire**
  Fires are only permitted in the fireplaces provided. These are limited in number because of the risk of bushfires and the lack of firewood. Fireplaces are no longer available at most of the overnight camping sites. Check at the information centre for current details.
  No fires are allowed on days of Total Fire Ban.
  Never break down trees or shrubs to obtain wood.
- **Walking tracks**
  Walkers are warned of the danger of becoming lost if they leave defined tracks. Stay on the track to avoid this risk, and also to avoid causing erosion and damaging vegetation.
- **Human wastes**
  If you are hiking in the northern part of the park where toilets are not provided, carry a small trowel with which to bury wastes, always well away from streams.
- **Washing dishes**
  The Prom is an important habitat for native fish. Don't wash dishes or tip soapy water in streams.
- **Noise**
  Remember the rights of others — leave radios and cassette players behind and keep noise to a minimum.

Short walks and day walks

There is a wide range of walks which take up to a day to complete.

Some feature spectacular scenery, others beaches, birds, wildflowers or forests. There are also four self-guided nature walks to introduce you to the park's habitats. The index at the back of this book will help you to find walks to suit your own interests.

The times given in the book are estimates for casual walkers. Experienced walkers may take less time; those with mobility problems may take longer.

Preparation

Little preparation is needed for most of the short walks (Walks 1-16). The tracks are generally well marked and the grades (steepness) slight to moderate. Wear shoes (or light boots) with a good gripping tread (NOT thongs) and carry water and something to eat on walks of more than an hour or two.

For day walks (Walks 17–19) carry adequate food and water and allow extra time to explore some of the features along the way. Always wear a hat in summer and carry suntan lotion and insect repellant, as well as a waterproof jacket. Make sure that you leave plenty of time to return in daylight.

Track to Sealers Cove R. Chapman

Hiking and camping away from Tidal River

A range of overnight walks (Walks 20–25) provides opportunities to explore some of the more remote corners of the park.

Walks in the southern part of the park are ideal for people with limited hiking experience. Tracks are well marked and basic facilities are provided at six camping areas. These are at South Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Little Waterloo Bay, Halfway Hut, Roaring Meg Creek and Oberon Bay. Camping is permitted only at these sites.

The north-eastern section is generally more isolated and there are no facilities. In addition, fresh water may be limited and the fire danger is often high. Campsites are located at Barrys Creek, Five Mile Beach, Johnny Souey Cove and Tin Mine Cove.

Fireplaces are provided at only a small number of the overnight camping areas, so you will probably need a portable stove. Check at the Park Entrance Station at Yanakie or at Tidal River before setting out.

Overnight camping permits

Because of the growing numbers of bushwalkers, it has become necessary to introduce a permit system for walks. The system is designed to preserve the park and the quality of the hiking experience, and to assist in any search and rescue work.

All walkers camping overnight must obtain a permit, either by mail (at least one month in advance), or in person from the information centre at Tidal River or the entrance station (for north walks).

To avoid overcrowding and damage, maximum numbers have been set for walking parties, and for campers at each overnight camping area. Full details are available from the park office, or Conservation, Forests & Lands in Melbourne.

Preparation

If you are not used to bushwalking, you should include at least one experienced person in your group. Useful information is available in the publications listed at the end of this book.

Make sure that you allow plenty of time for your planned walk. There's not much pleasure in trudging from dawn to dusk.

Strong comfortable footwear and warm waterproof clothes are essential. Check that packs, tents, sleeping bags and stoves are in good order before setting out, and select food carefully. Have a hearty breakfast and carry nourishing food for lunch: buttered bread or biscuits, cheese, salami, fruit, nuts, chocolate, etc. Take dehydrated foods for evening meals and avoid weighty cans. Remember — you have to carry out all your rubbish! In camp, put all food in your rucksack and stow it in your tent overnight, safe from raiding possums and wombats.

Adequate water must be carried. Check on the availability of fresh water before setting out on an overnight walk.

The maps in this booklet provide useful information but it is wise to carry a detailed map, particularly if you plan to hike in the northern part of the park. A selection is available at Tidal River.

A working knowledge of first-aid is important and a basic kit should be carried, including Band-aids, an elastic bandage, aspirin, matches and insect repellant. The last item is particularly important in summer when March Flies can cause discomfort. It is highly advisable to take out insurance cover for ambulance use. In the event of injury in remote areas, expensive helicopters are normally used for evacuation.

Hazards

When walking in hot weather, wear light clothing and a hat. Use suntan lotion, rest in the shade and have small drinks at frequent intervals.

If you encounter a snake, stop and wait for it to move away. Snakes usually won't attack unless provoked. If a bite does occur, the chances of survival are very good if you follow these guidelines:

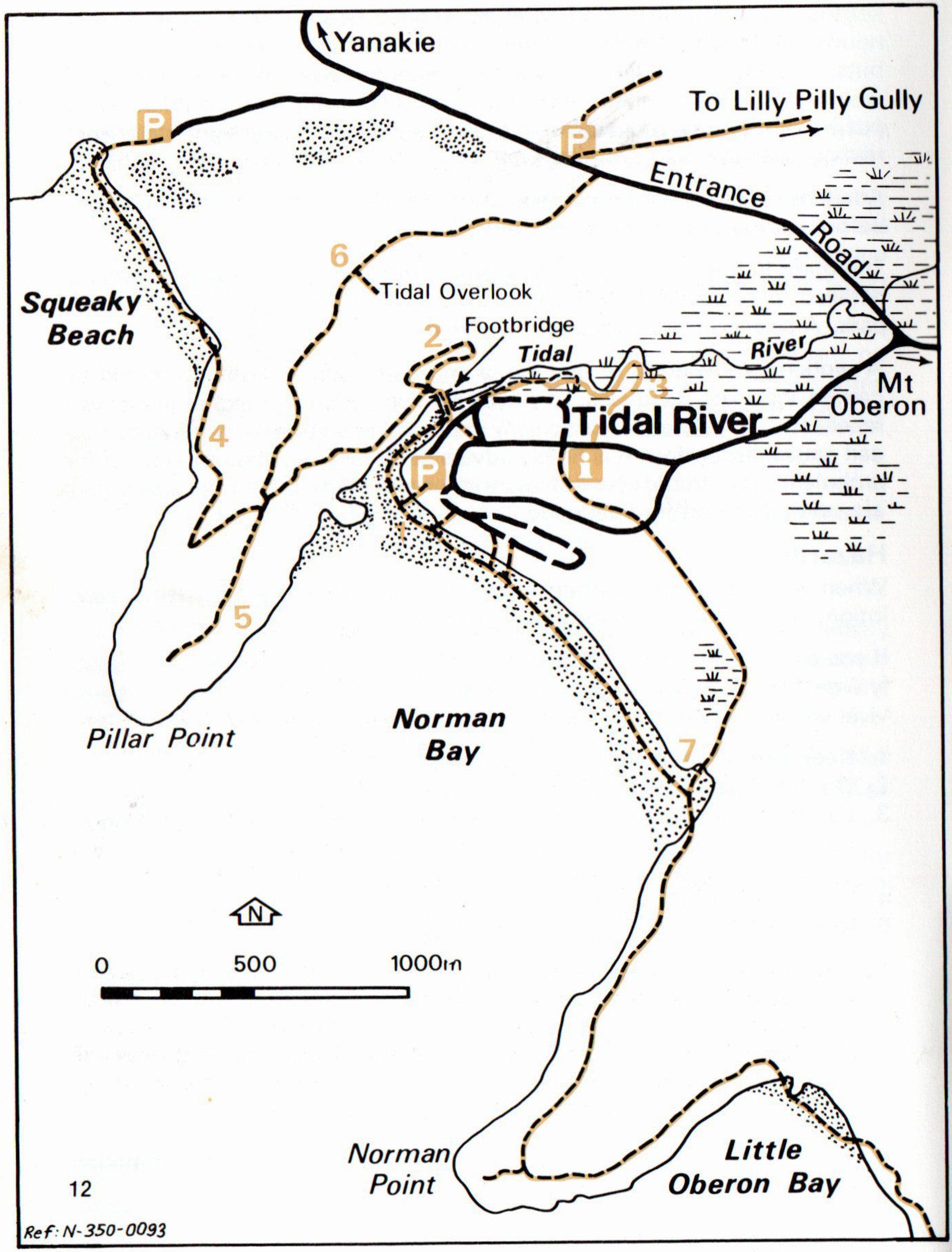
1. Keep calm. Try to identify the species of snake.
2. Do not wash, suck or cut the wound.
3. Lay the victim flat and apply a broad bandage firmly around the limb to cover the bitten area. Bandage as much of the limb as possible, bind a splint to it and keep it still.
4. Keep the patient calm and at rest.
5. Send one member of the party for help.

Don't let fear of snakes deter you from walking in the park; attacks are very rare.

Finally, help to look after the park by following the guidelines set out in this book. "Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints."

An 'after hours' emergency telephone number is displayed at the information centre at Tidal River.

Map 2: Short walks around Tidal River



SHORT WALKS AROUND TIDAL RIVER

There are seven scenic walks starting at or near Tidal River. Grades are light to moderate, and the tracks are in good condition. For those with mobility problems, Walks 1 and 2 are recommended.

1 Tidal River and Norman Bay (Map 2)

An easy stroll to beautiful Norman Bay.

Distance: 0.5 to 1 km **Time:** 15-30 minutes

Several tracks through the camping area provide access to the sandy flats beside Tidal River. The River leads to the north end of Norman Bay, one of Victoria's most beautiful beaches. From the beach there are sandy access tracks back to the camping area and to the large day-visitor carpark.

A separate map of the Tidal River area is available at the information centre.

2. Whale Rock (Map 2)

A short walk through sheltered coastal vegetation.

Distance: 1 km **Time:** 20-30 minutes round trip

Starting at the north end of the footbridge over Tidal River, this track winds through tea-tree, banksia and she-oak scrub. There are good views of Mt Oberon and the camping area.

3. Loo-errn Track (Map 2)

A special track for people of limited mobility.

Distance: 1 km

Named after an Aboriginal spirit, this track has a long boardwalk, bench seats, three fishing stations over the waters of Tidal River, a picnic area with barbecues and tables accessible to people with wheelchairs. The boardwalk passes through a Swamp Paperbark thicket and affords splendid views of the river and the surrounding forested peaks. Special interpretive signs along the way explain the various natural features to be seen.

4 Squeaky Beach Nature Walk (Maps 2,3)

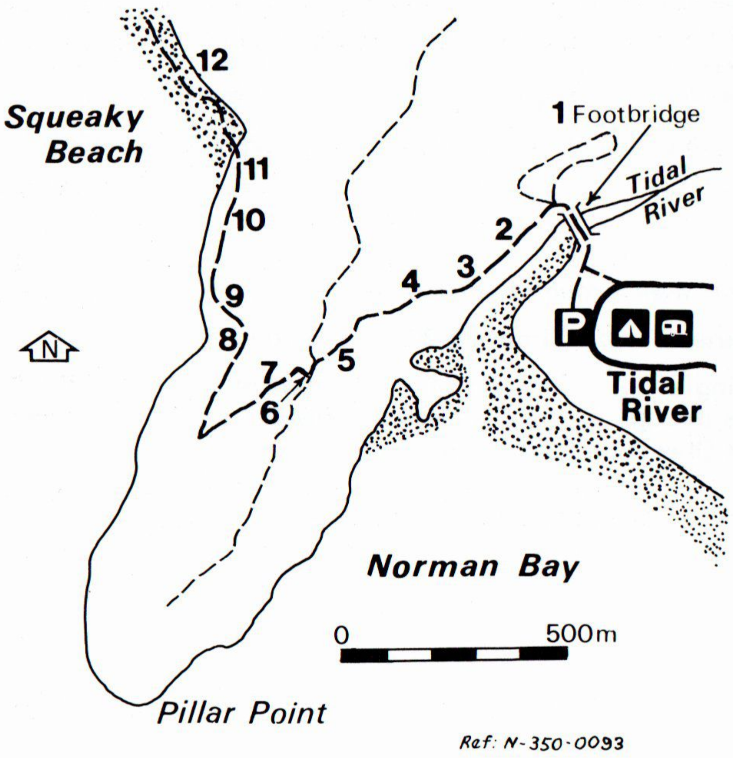
A delightful introduction to coastal vegetation and landforms.

Distance: 2 km **Time:** 30-45 minutes each way

This walk starts at the Tidal River footbridge and goes across Pillar Point to Squeaky Beach (Leonard Bay).

Numbers along the track indicate points of interest described in these notes.

Map 3: Squeaky Beach Nature Walk



Note that the walk can also be taken in the opposite direction — park at the Squeaky Beach carpark.

Please keep to the track and avoid any disturbance to soil, plants or animals.

1. View from the bridge

Notice the colour of the water in Tidal River — often quite a dark brown. This isn't pollution, but tannin, a pigment leached from the Swamp Paperbarks and other plants that grow in the swamp lining the river.

You may see young whiting, mullet, bream or other salt-water fish in Tidal River. These species often lay eggs in estuaries so that the young are sheltered from rough water and large predators.

2. Wombat territory

This sheltered site supports coastal scrub, a favourite habitat of wombats.

Tall twisted shrubs of **Coast Tea-tree** are the commonest plants growing on the calcareous sands that make up the soil here. Other shrubs include **Coast Beard-heath** — a tall shrub with hard, rough, black bark and small white flowers, and **Coast Pomaderris** — a lower shrub with white-edged oval leaves.

Occasional trees are found in the scrub, including veteran specimens of **Coast Banksia** — a massive tree with rough grey bark and dark-green leaves that are white underneath — and **Common Boobialla**, a tree with rough black bark and thick leaves dark-green on both sides.

The wiry climber **Small-leaved Clematis** is prominent in the canopy, especially when flowering in spring, and when bearing clusters of its fluffy fruits in summer.

Common among the herbs found in the ground layer is **Bidgee-widgee**, a sprawling native plant with toothed leaflets and burr-like fruits. (The ones that stick to socks!)

Look for evidence of wombats along the track, particularly holes where they have been scratching for tree roots, and large cube-shaped droppings placed conspicuously to aid as territorial markers.

3. Track work

As you walk uphill, notice the various methods used to keep the track stable.

Sand dune areas like this one are easily damaged, and galloping erosion can quickly scar unprotected slopes.

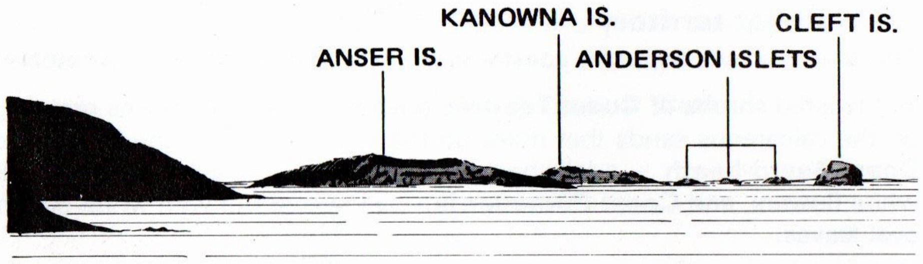
To prevent this, the track is fenced, its sides are covered with brushing (paper-bark and tea-tree branches) to hold the sand, and there are gutters across the track at regular intervals to divert rainwater and stop it rushing downhill.

In time, plants will grow up through the brushing.

4. Lookout

Have a rest here and enjoy the view of Mt Oberon and Norman Bay. The beach is gently sloping, providing safe swimming most of the time.

Among the islands, Anser Island and Cleft Island, or Skull Rock, are easily recognised.



Most of the islands around the Prom are part of the National Park, and are of vital importance as undisturbed breeding-grounds for seals and seabirds. No longer do sealers go ashore with clubs and knives as they did last century.

5. Tea-tree canopy

Along here the tea-tree scrub becomes the dominant vegetation, and is quite tall and thick, because this area is sheltered from prevailing winds and protected from salt spray.

You'll notice that there is very little ground vegetation among the tea-tree. This is mainly because little light reaches the ground, although tea-tree leaves may also produce substances which prevent other plants growing. One plant that does grow on the ground is **Kidney Weed**, a small native with kidney-shaped leaves.

Common Ring-tail Possums find the high branches in this thick tea-tree a good place to build their twig nests. The large rounded nests protect the possums from cold wet weather. See how many you can spot.

Side tracks (no peg)
The Tidal Overlook track takes you through heathland to eucalypt forest with an excellent view over Tidal River, and then on to the main road near the Lilly Pilly carpark.

Fifty metres further on, the Pillar Point track leads through coastal vegetation to a view point over the sea.

6. Over-exposed

At this point the vegetation changes quite suddenly. **Coast Tea-tree** is still present, but low and twisted because it's exposed to strong westerly winds laden with salt. In addition, the soil is very thin and infertile.

One tree species that does manage to thrive here is **Drooping She-oak**. To keep water loss and salt damage to a minimum, its leaves are reduced to tiny scales at the joints of the branchlets ("needles") and its foliage is covered with a hard waxy skin for protection.

Other plants include **White Kunzea, Common Heath**, and **Large-leaf Bush-pea**. As you walk down to Squeaky Beach, look for the effects of salt spray.

7. Plum pudding rock

Here there is an interesting outcrop of granite with very large crystals and many dark xenoliths ("foreign stones") which became embedded in the granite when it was still solidifying. It's like a big plum pudding.

Wilsons Promontory is part of a huge mass of granite that formed deep underground about 380 million years ago. Molten rock welled up from below and gradually cooled and hardened. Because it cooled slowly its crystals of **quartz** (clear or grey), **feldspar** (white or pink) and **mica** (black) are fairly large. Can you see these three minerals in this rock?

Although granite is a hard and resistant rock, it is constantly breaking down to produce sand and soil. The rock weathers along joint planes (cracks), and large rounded blocks called tors are formed. The quartz becomes sand, some of it forming beaches like Squeaky Beach. You are "doing your bit" by crushing gravel into sand as you walk along the track!

8. **Pruned by salt**

Here you can see clearly the effect of salt spray and strong winds on plants. Only branches growing close to the ground have survived; leaves and stems growing in exposed positions are constantly pruned back by the salt-laden wind blowing off the ocean.

9. **Coffin Rock**

A spectacular feature you can see from here is Coffin Rock, next to the large sheet of granite beyond the peg. When waves break over this oblong slab, water cascades down on both sides to form a white "shroud".

You may also be able to see a "rip" near the rocks. Currents carry water south along the beach and then out to sea here, stirring up food particles which attract fish and their predators.

10. **Peat**

Rainwater from further up the slope seeps out here, providing an environment favourable for bog plants. As these plants have rotted away they have gradually formed a dark peaty soil. The track has been specially constructed to minimise trampling of this fragile area.

Some good examples of weathering granite, including a giant boulder split in three, can also be seen.

In their own way, plants are also at work breaking down the rock. Look for orange, yellow, green or black lichens on the granite. These primitive plants produce an acid which eats into the rock to begin the soil-forming process.

11. **Rock pools**

Take care when exploring the rocks near the sea here. People have been washed off by waves that come in unexpectedly. However, there are some interesting anemones, cunjevois, crabs and shellfish to be seen in the pools.

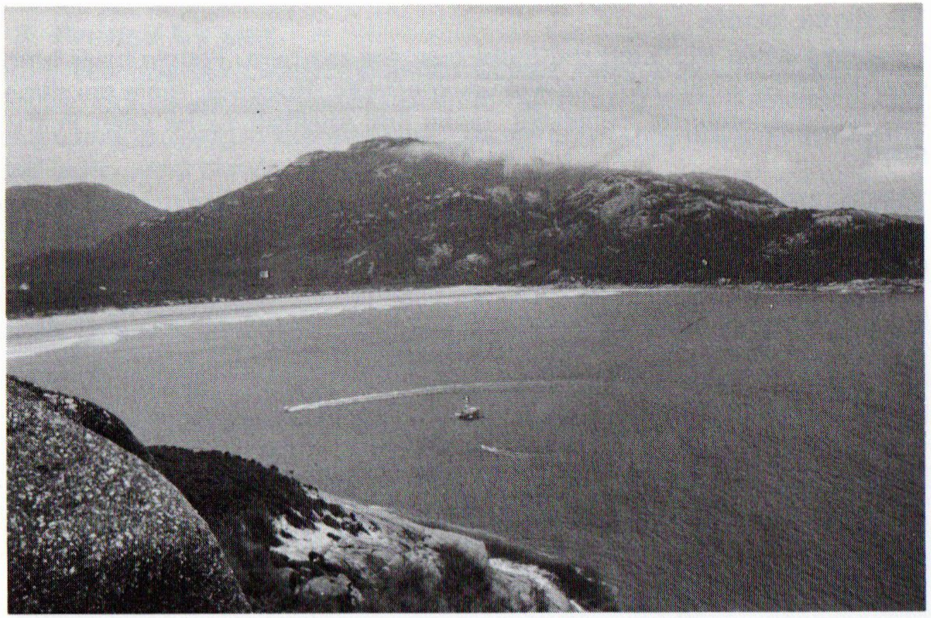
12. **On the beach** (no peg)

Have you found the squeak yet? Try shuffling your feet in dry sand if you haven't.

Why does it squeak? The answer is in the type of sand. The white sand of Squeaky Beach is almost pure quartz in the form of rounded grains. When you walk along, these grains rub against each other. . . and squeak. It's like walking on a thick layer of marbles.

Note that the beach at Norman Bay (Tidal River) is of yellow sand, which has a large proportion of shell fragments. Wilsons Promontory is actually a dividing line between these two major kinds of beaches: quartz ones to the east, and calcareous (shelly) ones to the west. Squeaky Beach and Little Oberon Bay are odd ones out — they have quartz sand, whereas all the other beaches on the Prom's west coast have yellow calcareous sand.

More management work, in the form of fences and Hairy Spinifex planting, has been carried out to protect dunes behind Squeaky Beach. National parks will only remain natural if they're looked after!



Norman Bay and Mt. Oberon from Pillar Point

Track to Little Oberon Bay

5 Pillar Point (Map 2)

A coastal walk with fine views.

Distance: 1.5 km **Time:** 30–45 minutes each way

The track starts at the footbridge over Tidal River, diverging off the Squeaky Beach track. There are excellent views of Norman Bay and Mt Oberon from Pillar Point.

6 Tidal Overlook (Map 2)

A scenic overland walk.

Distance: 2.1 km **Time**: 45 minutes each way

The track heads north-east from the Squeaky Beach track, passing through heathland and coastal scrub and providing an excellent view of Tidal River. You can continue to the road and follow it back to Tidal River (round trip 5.4 km).

7 South Norman Bay/Little Oberon Bay (Map 2)

A varied coastal walk ending at a sandy beach.

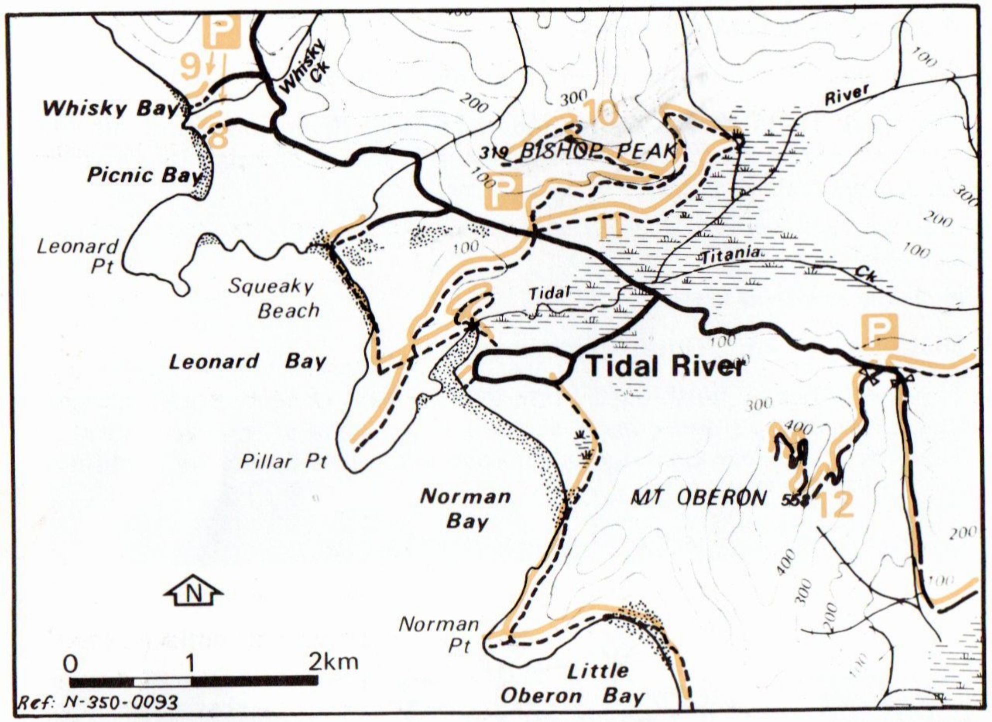
Distance: 4 km **Time**: 1.5 hours each way

Walk down Norman Bay (or take the inland track from Tidal River, starting near the information centre), then follow the track around Norman Point.

The walk features coastal views and ends at a picturesque beach at Little Oberon Bay. Note that this beach is too dangerous for swimming.

See the notes on Walk 18 for further information.

Map 4: Short walks away from Tidal River



The Loo-errn Track N. Ironmonger

SHORT WALKS AWAY FROM TIDAL RIVER

Eight short walks away from Tidal River cater for all tastes. There are short strolls to surf beaches, informative nature walks, and moderate to steep climbs to mountain-top lookouts.

In all cases, the walks start from car parks reached from the main entrance road.

8, 9 Picnic Bay, Whisky Bay (Map 4)

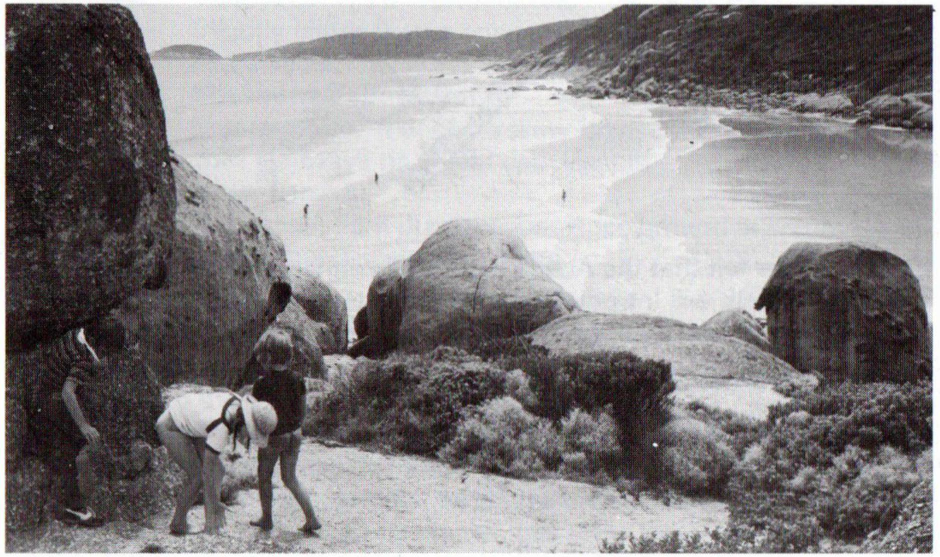
Short walking tracks lead from separate car parks to these secluded beaches. March flies can be a nuisance in summer, and insect repellent can be useful.

10 Mt. Bishop (Map 4)

A steep climb rewarded by an excellent view.

Distance: 4 km **Time:** 1 to 1.5 hours each way

Starting from the Lilly Pilly Gully car park, the track follows part of the "top" section of the Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk, then winds up the side of Mt Bishop. Sections of the track are steep and rough but the views make the effort worthwhile.



Whisky Bay

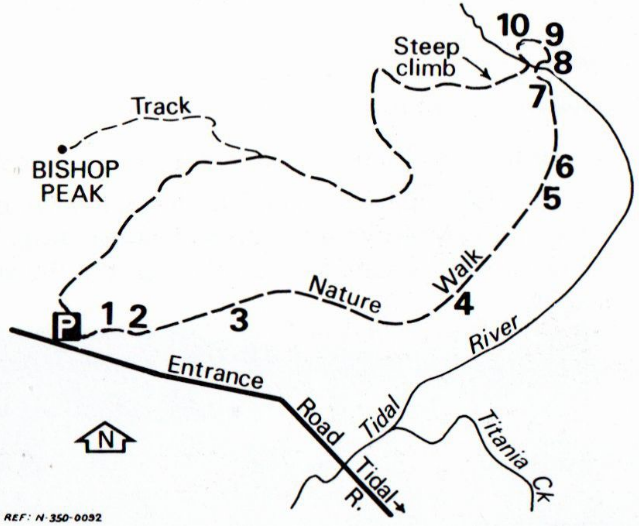
11 Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk
(Maps 4, 5)

An excellent introduction to the Prom's plant and animal communities.

Distance: 5 km **Time:** 3 hours

The track leads from the car park into Lilly Pilly Gully and returns along the slopes of Mt Bishop. You may prefer to follow the track in reverse to avoid the steep climb beyond Lilly Pilly Gully. People with limited mobility are advised to go as far as Stop 10 and return from there to the start, thus avoiding the steep climb.

Map 5: Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk



Have you ever felt that the Australian bush is rather dull and monotonous? This nature walk will introduce you to a range of communities and show how varied and beautiful the bush can be.

1. Plant communities

Each kind (species) of plant is adapted to grow best under particular conditions of climate, soil, landform and other factors. Different species with similar preferences for these conditions tend to grow together as a community.

Can you see different plant communities around here?

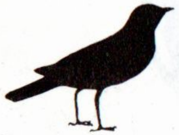
The low-growing shrubs near the track form a heathland, while further up the slope eucalypts are more common, forming an open forest. Each plant community results from an interaction between individual plants and animals, and non-living parts of the environment such as climate and soils.

From **producers** (green plants), **consumers** (possums, snakes, caterpillars, rosellas) and "**thieves**" (mistletoe, leeches, mosquitoes), to **garbage collectors** (ravens, dung beetles) and the **demolition crew** (soil bacteria, earthworms, fungi) every living thing is dependent on the community environment for its basic needs. And each, in turn, affects its environment.

2. The sound of music

Close your eyes for 30 seconds and listen to the sounds of life around you. You will be unlucky if you don't hear four of five different birds — mobile cogs in this community.

Some of the common birds living here are:



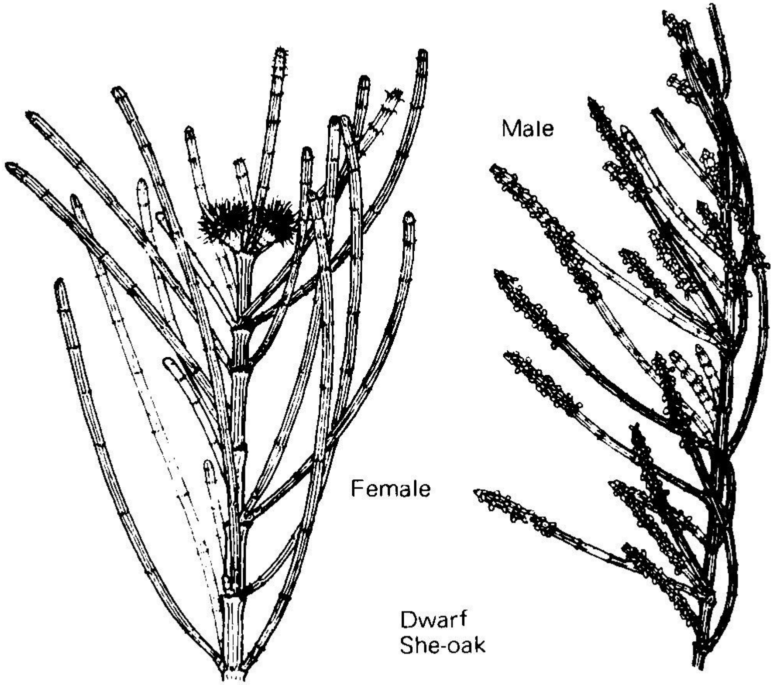
Crimson Rosella:
A parrot, nibbler of tea-tree fruits. Immature birds green and red, mature birds brilliant blue and red.
Little Wattle-bird:
Half the size of a seagull, with a noisy call. Light specks on grey body. A nectar, pollen and insect eater.
Yellow-winged Honeyeater:
Slightly larger than a sparrow; food includes nectar, pollen and insects.
Southern Yellow Robin:
Sparrow size, friendly, yellow breast very prominent. Perches sideways on trees, eats insects.
Grey Thrush:
Grey body, light brown nape. Hops around in scrub at mid-height; has a melodious song.

3. Heathland community

The low vegetation here forms a typical heathland community.
Try identifying the main members of the community.
The low tree with narrow leaves (silver underneath) and yellow "bottlebrush" flowers is **Silver Banksia**, very popular with honeyeaters.
The two tea-trees present can be distinguished by feeling their leaves.
Prickly Tea-tree, a shrub up to 3 m tall, has sharp leaves while the slightly smaller **Silky Tea-tree** has rounded leaves and soft fruit.

Your fingers should provide positive identification of "needle bush": **Silky Hakea**. This shrub has spine-like leaves and large woody nuts. The pine-like shrub is **Dwarf She-oak**. Can you find its true leaves? They are minute scales clustered at intervals around the "needles" or branchlets. Both male and female plants occur: only the female plants carry cones. **Austral Grass-tree** or "blackboy" has a fountain of wirelike grass leaves. Aborigines used resins extracted from the base of these plants to fix weapon tips onto shafts.

Common Heath (Victoria's floral emblem) is a small shrub with white, pink or red flowers in winter and spring.



Dwarf She-oak

In response to low soil fertility, heathland plants are generally dwarfed and hardy. They have small or narrow leaves which minimise the amount of water lost in transpiration.

Why is there sometimes a shortage of water here?

One reason is the sandy soil, through which water and its load of nutrients quickly filters.

A second is the "coffee rock" or "iron pan" — a crust about 50 cm below the surface which limits the depth from which plants may draw moisture.

4. A fire was here

One late January night in 1951, fire flowed over the brim of Mt Bishop and gutted this valley. Only a year later, a green carpet had already risen from the ash. Now few obvious traces of the fire remain.

What evidence of the fire can you see?

The tall blackened trunks of trees killed in the fire suggest that this area was once a forest dominated by very large eucalypts. The smaller trees which have died more recently are wattles that germinated after the fire, and are now making way for other species. Perhaps in time this forest will grow back to reach its former grandeur.

Fires are not without compensations. Birds and possums find homes in fire-hollowed trees.

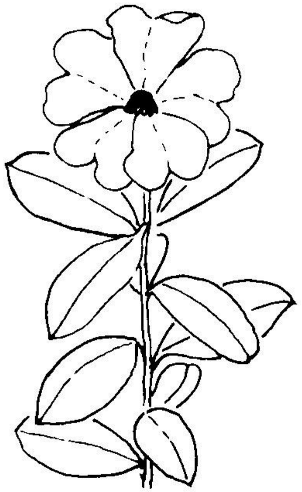
5. Eucalypt forests

The vegetation here is called a dry sclerophyll forest. This community is more open than the wet sclerophyll forest closer to Lilly Pilly Gully. "Sclerophyllous" means "having tough leathery leaves". It well describes the foliage of many plants in many kinds of eucalypt forest.

See if you can find the plants listed below which, with species already mentioned, make up the eucalypt forest.

The major trees are stringybark eucalypts: **Yellow Stringybark**, **Messmate** and occasionally **Brown Stringybark**.

Rough Guinea-flower, a dense waist-high shrub, has yellow flowers in spring and summer.



Rough Guinea Flower

Dusty Miller is a low shrub with a collar of "talcum dusted" leaves around tiny flowers.

Hairpin Banksia has characteristic orange "bottle brush" flowers. The flowers have black styles that resemble hairpins.

6. Spot a Koala

Scan the tree tops around here for **Koalas**. Blue Gums, Messmates and Yellow Stringybarks are the dishes for these "leaf gourmets". Each animal nibbles about 1 kg of leaves per day.

It is not correct that Koalas eat only Manna Gum leaves. Although they certainly do have preferences, they devour the foliage of a wide range of species.

Like most native Australian mammals, Koalas are marsupials, and thus the young are born while still undeveloped. Only 2 cm long, the young koala journeys into the downward opening pouch of the mother to its destination — the mammary (milk) glands. Development continues in this nursery until the young outgrows and leaves the pouch five to six months later. Dull green droppings, twice the length of a shelled peanut, are a sure sign that a Koala is (or has been) up the tree beside you.

7. Survivor of the '51 fire

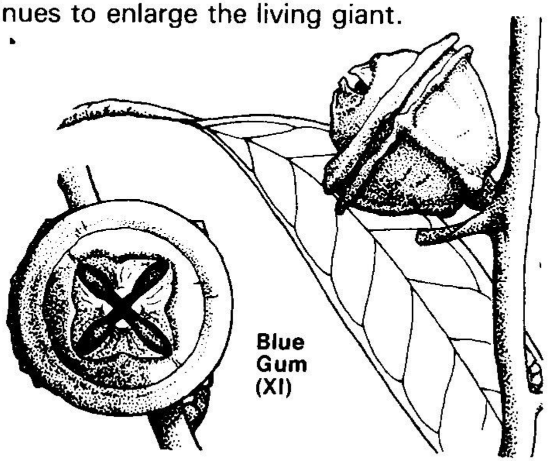
Many eucalypt trees, such as the stringybarks already encountered, have thick dead bark which shelters the trunk during bushfires. Other species, such as the **Blue Gum**, do not accumulate dead bark (except possibly near the base) and are more readily killed by fire.

This Blue Gum, however, had been "scarred" before the '51 fire — possibly by a previous fire or insects tunnelling — and its core was open and tinder-dry. When flames roared around it, the tree's core burned, hollowing out a small room complete with doorway.

However, the growing portion of the tree just beneath the bark — the cambium — survived, and continues to enlarge the living giant.

While at this stop, look on the ground for the large fruit of the Blue Gum, and on the trunks of stringybarks for signs of Koalas.

You should also see several examples of **Blanket-leaf**, a medium-sized shrub with long leaves that are woolly underneath.



8. Rainforest in Victoria? (see photo next page)

One usually pictures a rainforest as being in a tropical area, but here on the southern-most tip of the Australian mainland, you are standing in warm temperate rainforest.

This results from the combination of favourable conditions: fairly high rainfall (1220 mm per year), drainage from nearby slopes, deep soils, shelter from hot winds and direct sunshine, and freedom from frequent fires.

Can you recognise the main plants growing here?

The tree with dark-green shiny leaves and white or purple berries is **Lilly-Pilly**.

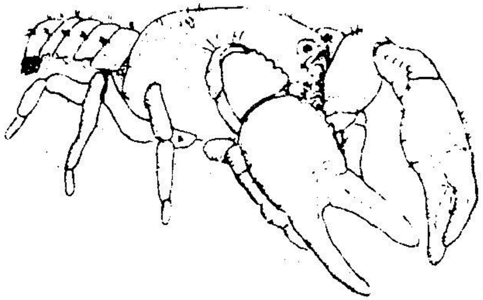
The eucalypt with fibrous bark on the butt and clean upper branches is **Swamp Gum**. Look for one 20 m along the track.

The large wattle is **Blackwood**. Look for seed pods on the path.

9. Who lives here?

Notice the small holes (about 3 cm across) in the soggy soil beside the path. Each hole leads to an underwater network of tunnels up to 1 m or more below the surface.

This is the domain of the **Fresh-water Yabby**.



Fresh-water Yabbies are armour-clad crustaceans, seldom seen except at night. Some species inhabit only dams, lakes and streams. Others, such as the one here, live in water at the bottom of burrows which open on land. Yabbies are scavengers, feeding on worms and organic matter.

10. Trees on trees

The fan of fronds on a **Soft Tree-fern** makes a very effective litter basket. It catches twigs, leaves, Blackwood seed pods, and other debris which tumble from the upper storey of the rainforest.

This litter quickly decomposes and, with the spongy surface of the tree-fern, makes a rich seed-bed. When the conditions are suitable, a Blackwood seed may germinate and take root in one of these elevated flowerpots. The roots of the Blackwood follow the moisture downward through the tree-fern's soft trunk. After many years, the Blackwood outgrows the slow tree-fern. The enwrapping roots below remain as clues to the unusual story.

* * *

You have now finished the interpretive part of the walk. From the picnic area, the return leg of the walk involves a fairly steep climb on the lower slopes of Mt Bishop and then an easy walk to the car park.

12 Mount Oberon Nature Walk (Map 4)

A moderate climb to a great view.

Distance: 3.2 km **Time**: 1 hour each way

The track starts at the Mt Oberon car park and follows a moderate to steep grade to the summit. Along the way you will see marked changes in vegetation, and the effect of fire on plant communities.

The first stop is along a short side track on the right hand side of the track.

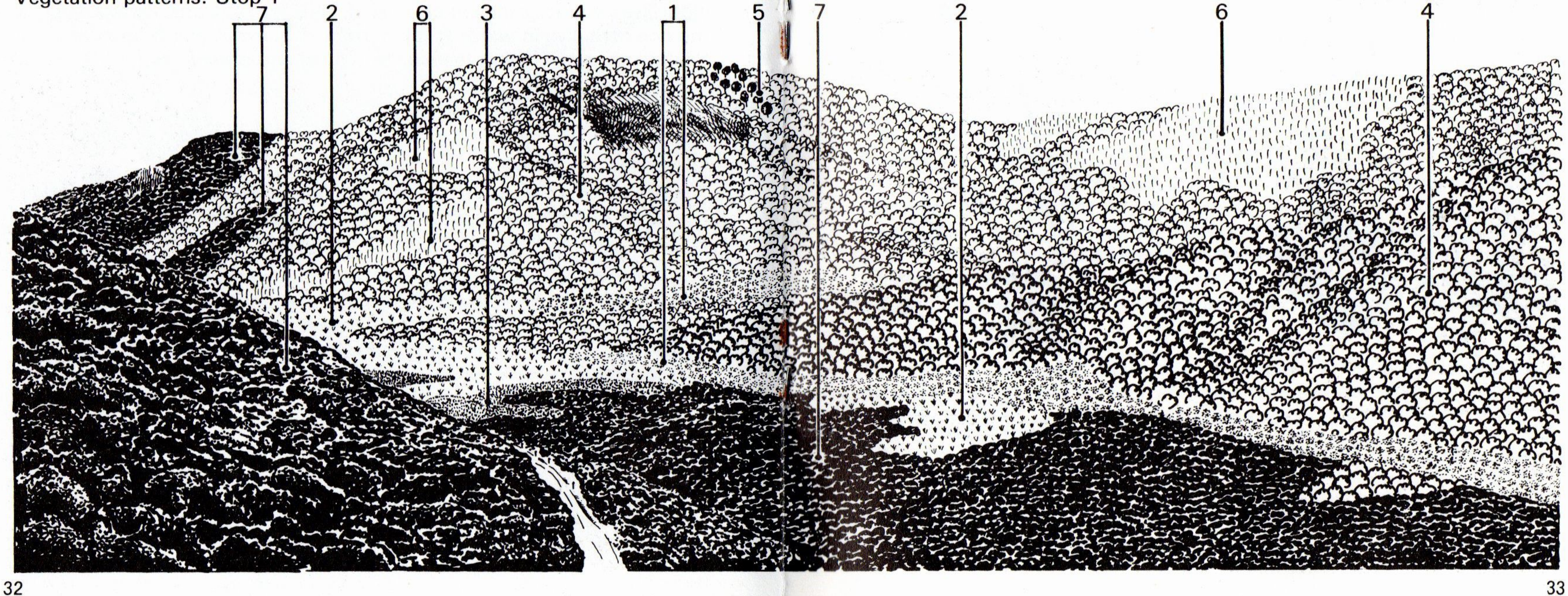
1. Vegetation patterns

From this point you are looking across the valley of Titania Creek, one of the tributaries of Tidal River. If you look carefully at the valley and the surrounding mountains, you can see many of the types of vegetation found at Wilsons Promontory.

Apart from the road and the effect of man-made fires, this area is much as it was when Captain Cook landed in Australia. A solitary pole is the only reminder of a telegraph line built to the lighthouse in 1860.

1. Warm temperate rainforest, containing **Lilly-pilly** and **Blackwood**, forming a ribbon along the streams. It grows on well-drained, gravelly alluvial soils.
2. **Swamp Paper-bark** thickets, on low-lying, poorly-drained sites. The formation of sand dunes behind Norman Bay has partially blocked the valley's drainage, causing swamps to develop.
3. Low heathland on sandy soils along the lower flanks of the mountains.
4. Stringybark eucalypt forest on the mountains, containing combinations of **Messmate**, **Brown** and **Yellow Stringybark**.
5. **Mountain Ash** tall forest, found in a few sheltered gullies where fires have been infrequent.
6. Scrub areas resulting from repeated burning of 4 and 5. The wattle **Prickly Moses** dominates the exposed sites.
7. Eucalypt woodlands and low woodlands found on the hotter northern and western slopes. At these sites the shallow rocky soils are often extremely infertile. The eucalypts close to this stop are reduced to such low shrubs that the vegetation resembles heathland.

Vegetation patterns: Stop 1

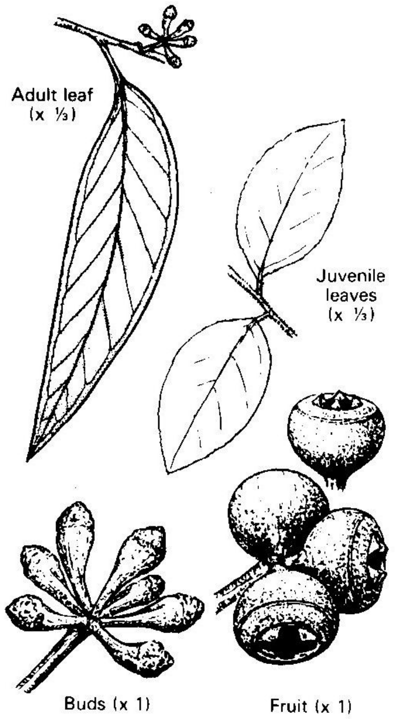


2. Dry forest

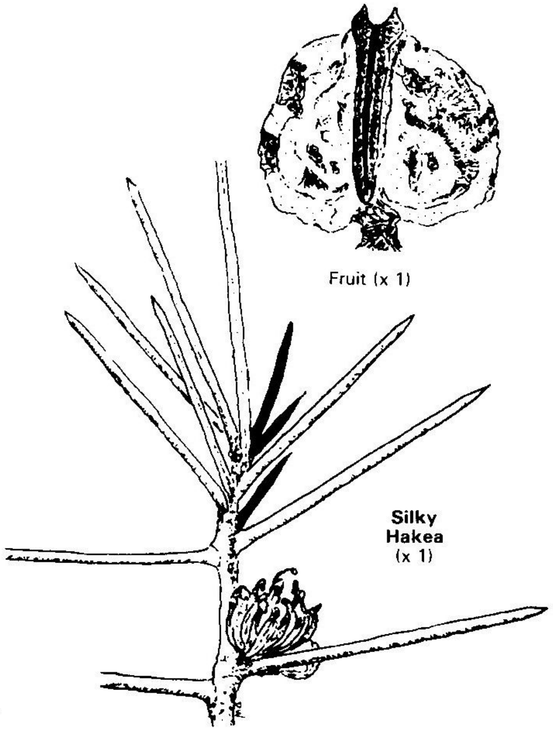
Have you noticed a change in the vegetation as you walked up the track?

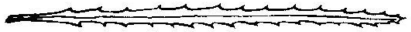
This area faces east, not north, and is sheltered from the hot afternoon sun and prevailing westerly winds. The resulting cool and moist conditions, together with deeper soils, favour plant growth.

The stunted woodland at Stop 1 has been replaced by taller vegetation. Here, **Brown Stringybark** forms an open forest in which you can see at least three layers or storeys. Beneath the eucalypt overstorey there is a tall shrub layer containing **Hairpin Banksia** and **Silky Hakea** and a low shrub layer including **Common Heath** and **Rough Guinea-flower**.

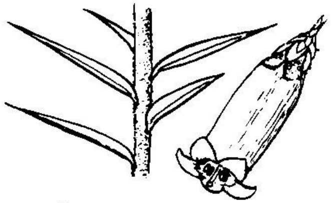


Brown Stringybark





Hairpin Banksia (x ½)

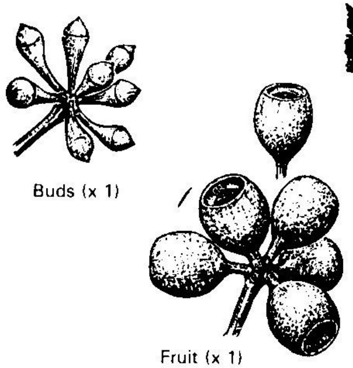


Common Heath (x 1)

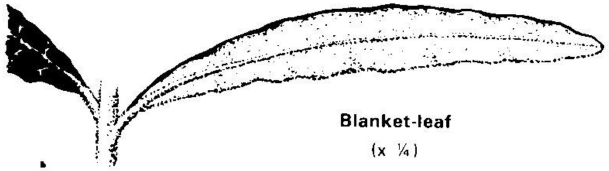
Drawings courtesy L. F. Costermans

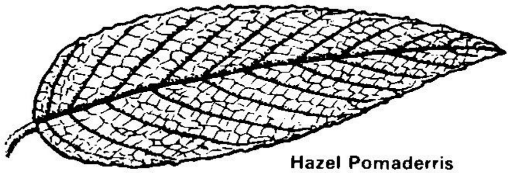
3. Wet forest

This gully faces south-east, the most sheltered aspect. **Messmate** is now the dominant tree species in this tall open forest, which includes a tall shrub layer containing **Blanket-leaf** and **Hazel Pomaderris**. (The leaves of Blanket-leaf are furry and white underneath; those of Hazel Pomaderris have deeply-impressed veins which are brown underneath.)



Messmate





Among the ferns to be found here are **Rough Tree-fern** and **Fishbone Water-fern. Tall Sword-sedge**, a grass-like plant with long sharp-edged leaves, is common in the ground layer.

Blanket-leaf and Hazel Pomaderris have rather broad leaves. All plants lose water from their leaves through tiny pores, a process called transpiration. Generally, the larger the leaf the greater the water loss, and so broad-leaved plants can only grow in sheltered, well-watered places. However, even the Blanket-leaf and Hazel Pomaderris leaves have water-conserving adaptations. Feel the undersurface of the leaves. The many hairs there trap a layer of moist air and so reduce transpiration.

4. Plants and soils

The forest at this point faces east, as it does at Stop 2, but the main eucalypt is Messmate instead of Brown Stringybark, and as at Stop 3, Hazel Pomaderris and Blanket-leaf are present.

Why is the vegetation different from that at Stop 2? At least two factors are involved.

- This spot is 150 metres higher, and has a higher rainfall, supplemented by moisture from fog and cloud.

- Soils here are deeper and richer in phosphorus and nitrogen.

However, although the soil partly determines the vegetation, the vegetation also affects the soil.

- Vigorous root growth helps break down the rock, producing a deep soil.
- Leaves and stems dropped by plants are decomposed by soil micro-organisms and add nutrients to the soil.

So vegetation and environment interact in a complex fashion.

5. Fire and forests

The tall dead trees here, and on Mt Ramsay and Mt Latrobe across the valley, are remnants of eucalypt forests burnt in a succession of bushfires. Good regeneration followed some of these fires, but the severe bushfire of 1951, which devastated most of Wilsons Promontory, destroyed many of the young trees before they were mature enough to produce seed. In some parts of the ranges, acacias (with yellow flowers in spring) have replaced the previously dominant eucalypts.

On the exposed slopes of Mt Oberon, regrowth of **Messmates** and other species has been restricted by shallow soils and exposure to drying sun and winds. Given time and protection from fire, however, this forest is likely to eventually grow back to its previous height and diversity.

Fires do have their positive side. Dead trees provide homes for mammals and birds such as the **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos** often seen around here.

6. Plant invaders

Here you can see the formation of soil and the establishment of plants on bare granite.

First come the **lichens**, primitive pioneering plants consisting of a fungus and an alga. Grey, white or greenish in colour, they produce an acid that eats at the rock to produce minute amounts of soil. Some lichens are flat, resembling patches of paint, while others appear leathery or fibrous.

Mosses and **liverworts** are next. They need more soil than lichens, but can still survive dry conditions. They enlarge tiny cracks in the rock and more soil is gradually formed as the rock crumbles.

In places where soil collects, other plants can get a foothold. On these rocks **Necklace Fern**, small herbs and the shrub **White Kunzea** are common. The small eucalypts with smooth trunks nearby are **Gippsland Mallee** (*Eucalyptus kitsoniana*), an uncommon species found in only a few parts of Victoria.

Stop 6: Plants invading granite

7. A changing world (see next page)

Standing 558 metres above the sea on 380 million year old granite, it's easy to feel a sense of timelessness.

But the natural world is always changing. Just 15 000 years ago, the Promontory headlands and islands were the tops of mountains on a land-bridge joining the mainland to Tasmania.

The sea level rose following the last great Ice Age, gradually submerging the land-bridge which Aborigines had crossed to reach Tasmania.

The Tidal River area has also changed in recent times. The previously deep valley has filled with sands and gravels washed down from the surrounding mountains, and with peat from the swamps. In addition, a series of parallel sand dunes has built up behind the beach. These infertile sands now support heathland and coastal scrub.

European settlement has brought further changes, such as tracks, buildings and frequent fires, to the Prom, but, with care, it will remain a unique refuge for native plants and animals, and for people.

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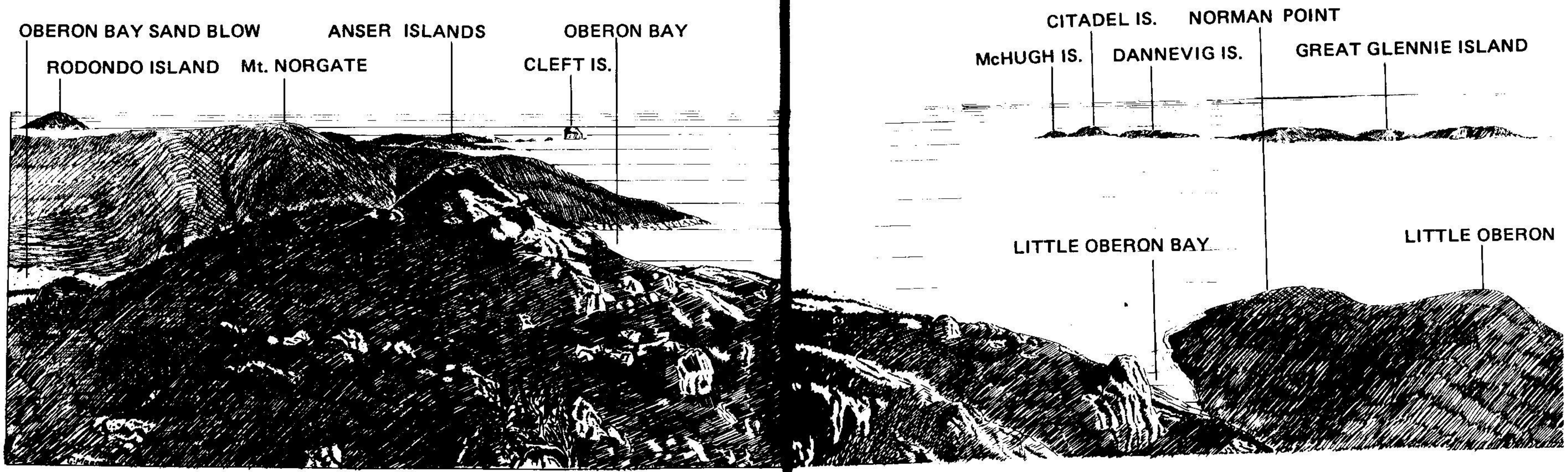
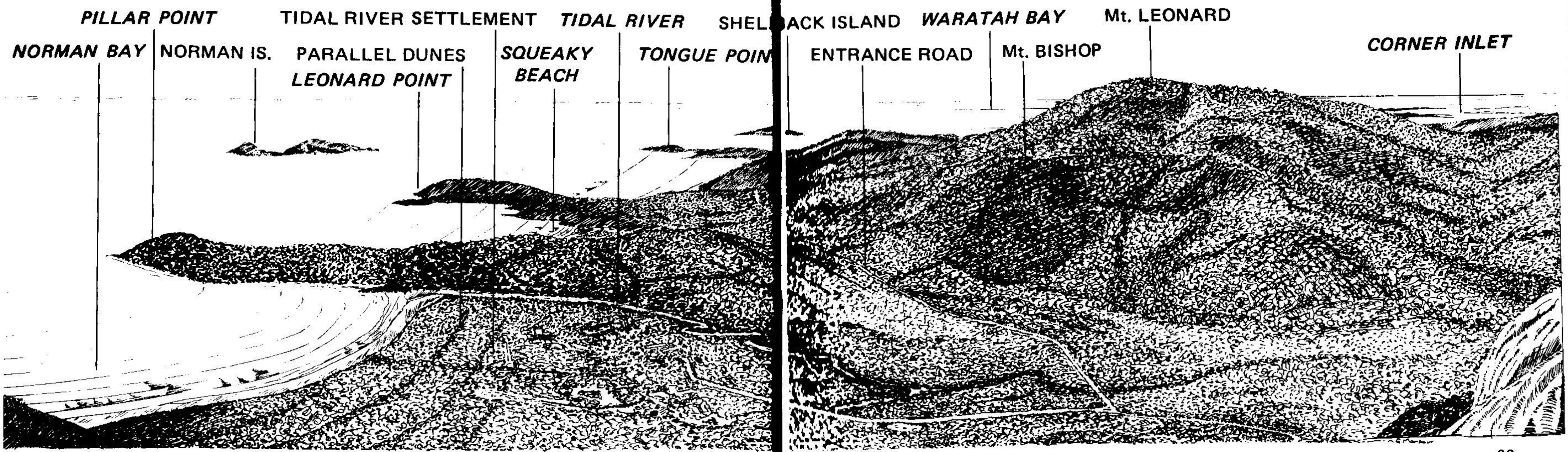

OBERON BAY SAND BLOW
RODONDO ISLAND
Mt. NORGATE
ANSER ISLANDS
OBERON BAY
CLEFT IS.
CITADEL IS.
NORMAN POINT
McHUGH IS.
DANNEVIG IS.
GREAT GLENNIE ISLAND
LITTLE OBERON BAY
LITTLE OBERON


PILLAR POINT
NORMAN BAY
NORMAN IS.
TIDAL RIVER SETTLEMENT
PARALLEL DUNES
LEONARD POINT
SQUEAKY BEACH
TIDAL RIVER
TONGUE POIN
SHEL ACK ISLAND
ENTRANCE ROAD
WARATAH BAY
Mt. BISHOP
Mt. LEONARD
CORNER INLET

13 Darby River and Beach (Map 8)

An easy stroll to a quiet beach.

Distance: 1 km **Time**: 15 minutes each way.

Today the grassy area at the start of the track to Darby Beach is a pleasant picnic spot. There's little trace of the activities that occurred here in days gone by. And yet for many years this was the tourist centre of the Prom.

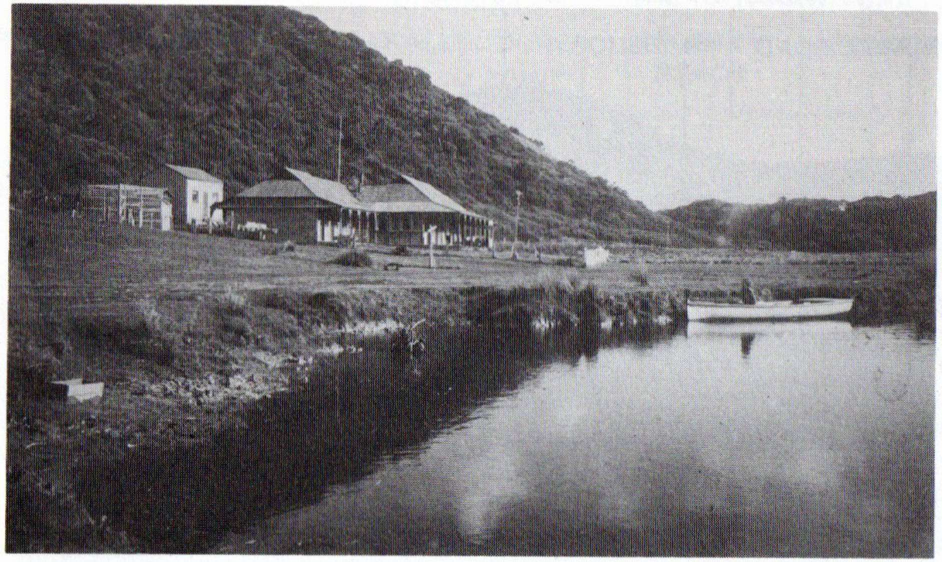
Only the foundations of the Darby Chalet, the piles of the old wooden bridge and the concrete floors of Army buildings survive.

The first ranger, Charles McLennan, lived at Darby from 1909, soon after Wilsons Promontory became a national park. The only other building at Darby at the time was a hut used by the linesman who maintained the Fish Creek-Lighthouse telegraph line.

The trip from Fish Creek to Darby was an adventure in itself in the 1920s and 30s, as buggies and cars went along the beach for part of the way, and often became bogged in the sand.

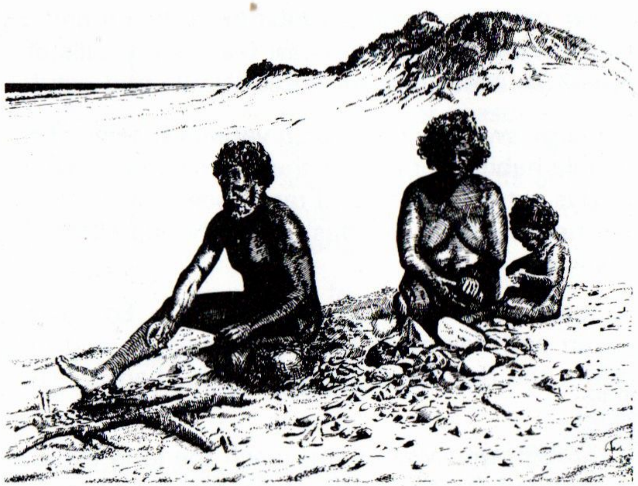
The Chalet, originally a Committee of Management hut built in 1910, was enlarged in 1922 to accommodate 30 people. From here, visitors walked or rode horses to Sealers Cove, Tidal River and the lighthouse. It was demolished in 1949.

Darby Chalet and River 1930s



In 1941 the Prom was closed to the general public and Australia's first commando camps were established at Darby and Tidal River. The war years saw the establishment of huts for accommodation, stores and ammunition, and a hospital. The park was reopened in 1946.

Just as evidence of European man's past can be found at Darby, so traces of Aboriginal habitation can be seen in the form of kitchen middens (shell heaps) among the sand dunes at Darby Beach. For thousands of years, Aborigines from the Brautaulung tribe visited the west coast of the Prom during the warmer months to gather food, such as seabirds and their eggs, lizards and snakes, frogs, plant roots, flowers and berries, fish and shellfish.



The walk to Darby Beach gives an excellent introduction to the coastal plants of the Prom. Some of the plants collected by the Aborigines, and seen along the track today, are Coast Ballart, Bower Spinach, Saltbush, Black-anther Flax-lily and Kangaroo Apple.

From the beach at Darby the two rock types which make up the Prom can be seen.

To the north are the sand dunes of the Yanakie Isthmus, cemented together thousands of years ago by lime dissolved from shell fragments. The ocean has cut into the dunes, forming cliffs and revealing the lime-encrusted roots of plants long since decomposed.

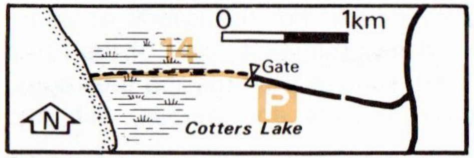
To the south is granite, formed 380 million years ago when molten rock cooled below the surface. It became exposed only after thousands of metres of overlying rock had been removed by erosion.

14 Cotters Lake (Maps 1, 6)

A good "bird" walk to a remote beach.

Distance: 1.5 km **Time**: 30 minutes each way

Map 6: Cotters Lake Track



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Turn off the main road at the signpost and park to the left before the gate.

As you walk past the gate there is a mixture of heath and coastal scrub. Among the Coast Beard-heath and Coast Tea-tree the calls of the Crescent Honeyeater, Grey Shrike-thrush and Little Wattle-bird can be heard.

Cotters Lake, a large swampy basin with various species of tussock grass, provides a suitable habitat for one of the Prom's rarest birds, the Ground Parrot. This bird is extremely shy and rarely seen, but its high-pitched trill can sometimes be heard just on dusk near the start of the gravel track through the swamp.

Some other unusual birds here are the Southern Emu-wren, Chestnut-tailed Heath-wren and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, and in late summer and early autumn the delightful ground orchid, Ladies' Tresses, can be found.

After walking through the swamp you reach the long expanse of Cotters Beach, where Hooded Dotterels run along the sand just in front of the waves.

Cars going to Darby Chalet used to drive along this beach and then cross Cotters Lake on duckboards to reach their destination.

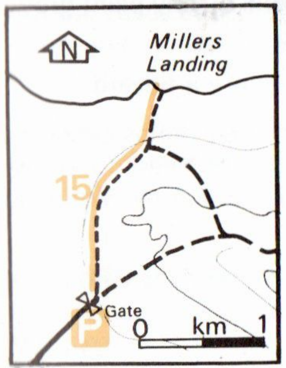
Intrepid travellers near Cotters Lake *c.* 1930

15 Millers Landing Nature Walk (Maps 1, 7)

A pleasant stroll through a banksia woodland to Corner Inlet.

Distance: 2.5 km **Time:** 2 hours return

Map 7: Millers Landing Nature Walk



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The walk starts near the car park on the Five Mile Road. It's a good idea to go at low tide so you can explore the mud flats in Corner Inlet.

Along this walk the emphasis is on change and survival. Change in nature can occur in many different ways. It can be a daily or seasonal event, and occur within a life cycle or just occasionally. If animals, and plants are to survive, they must be able to cope with these changes.

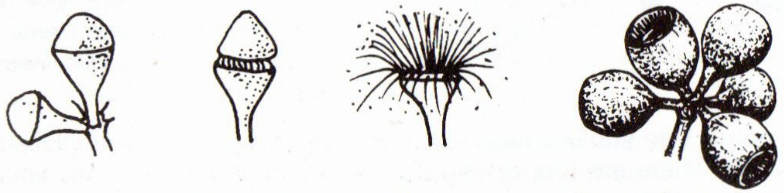
While you're walking along watch for wallabies, especially early and late in the day. You will need sharp eyes because their dark fur blends in with the shadows.

Listen for the thumps as they hop away, and look for places where they've crossed the track.

Black-tailed or Swamp Wallaby

1. A Study in Time

Have a close look at this **eucalypt** tree. If you were to stand here for over a year you would see a flower bud change and develop into a woody fruit with seeds.



Notice that the trunk has thick fibrous strands of bark. This makes it a *stringybark eucalypt*. "Trees of Victoria" by L.F. Costermans would help you find out this is **Messmate** *(Eucalyptus obliqua)*.

As you walk along you will see that messmates look stunted. This is because the soil here is dry and low in nutrients; messmates can grow to over 30 metres on better soils.

2. Life's full of problems

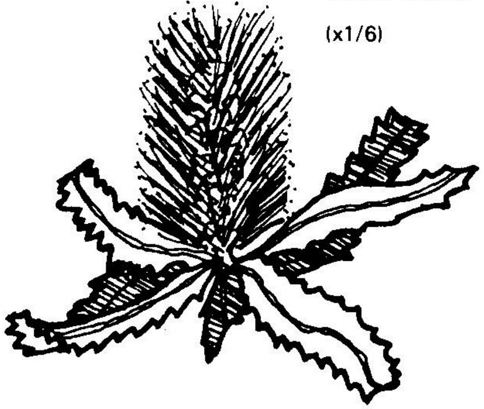
Stop and think for a moment about the problems faced by any plant growing here.

Because this area is dry and burns readily, bush fires are a hazard.

Look at the sandy soil. It isn't very fertile and water quickly drains away out of reach of plant roots, taking with it minerals plants need to grow. Thousands of years of such draining has changed the soil by removing much of this "plant food" from the already poor soil.

As you walk along, you'll find out some of the ways plants cope with these problems.

3. Razor-sharp leaves



Saw Banksia flower cluster

(x1/6)

Have you been noticing the trees with the gnarled grey bark? They are banksia trees. Feel the serrated edges of their leaves. This gives this banksia its name, the **Saw Banksia** *(Banksia serrata)*.

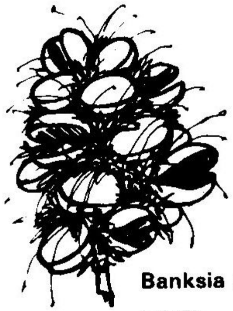
Each of the cylinder-shaped flower clusters actually consists of hundreds of tiny flowers. With time some of these tiny flowers will develop into woody fruits like those you can see on the trees. Each woody case has two seeds inside.

Look around. Can you see huge dead banksia trees? These were killed by a fire in 1951. There are lots of younger banksias around though, all about the same age. When did the seeds which grew into these trees fall?

4. An inside story

Here's another clue. Each woody fruit will not open unless it dries out.

Now consider what would happen if a fire was to burn this banksia.



Banksia cone

(x1/5)

If it was a severe bushfire, the tree would be killed, but the seeds themselves would be safely shut inside their thick cases until the fire passed. However, the heat of the fire would dry out the cases eventually causing them to open and release their seeds onto the burnt ground.

So the fire would have caused a change in the tree, causing it to shed all of its seeds at once.

5. Before and after

Imagine you are a banksia seed that has just fallen to the ground behind this peg.

All those plants around you are bigger than you and they're blocking out your light. Undergound they're against you too because their well-developed roots are using up the water and minerals that you need. The odds are really against you here!

Now imagine a banksia seed that has fallen just after a fire.

There would be no competition from the older plants; the fire saw to that! What's more, the fire acts like a fertilizer and boosts the soil's mineral supply.

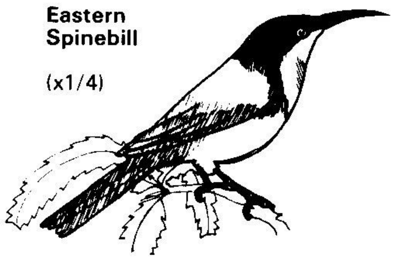
So a banksia seed would probably have a better chance of growing after a fire than without one, since a fire causes a change in the soil and plant cover which improves the survival chances of a banksia seedling.

6. Banksia on the menu

Just what's on the menu depends on the season because banksia food changes with the seasons. And just who's feeding on the flowers changes with the time of day.

During summer when these trees are flowering, nectar from the base of each individual flower is sought after by a variety of animals; insects and birds during the day, while the tiny pigmy possum comes out at night.

Honeyeaters such as wattle-birds and **Eastern Spinebills** have long beaks which enable them to easily reach the base of flowers. Their tongues are adapted to nectar feeding too: they have brush tips to help collect the liquid.



Eastern Spinebill

(x1/4)

7. **More food**

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
(x1/12)

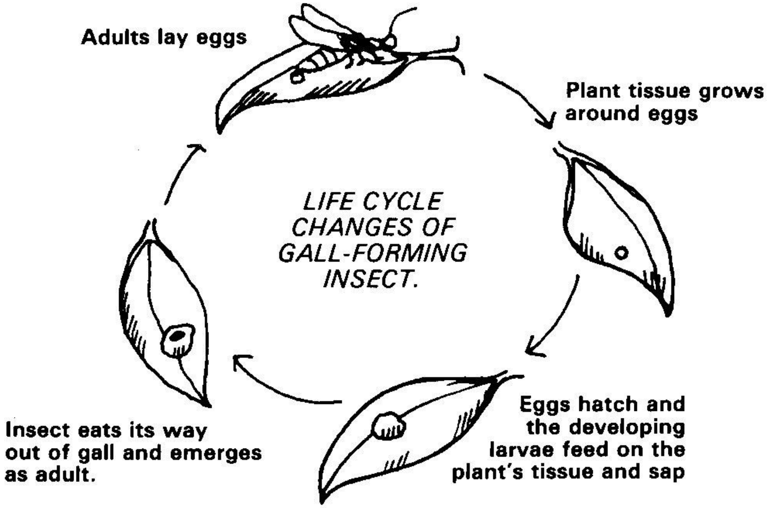
Banksia seeds are in demand too. But it is hard to open their woody cases.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have strong curved beaks which help them to gnaw through the cones to feed on the seeds inside. You may see these birds flying slowly overhead, or hear their harsh call as they feed.

The flowers and fruits of the eucalypts also don't escape hungry eyes.

8. **Animal nurseries**

Notice the swollen lumps on some of the leaves of this stringybark. These are called galls and are really nurseries for insects such as flies and wasps. This is what happens.


Adults lay eggs
Plant tissue grows around eggs
Eggs hatch and the developing larvae feed on the plant's tissue and sap
Insect eats its way out of gall and emerges as adult.
LIFE CYCLE CHANGES OF GALL-FORMING INSECT.

Some flower buds on this stringybark are swollen; these are actually galls caused by another insect.

Look closely at this and other trees for more animal homes. For instance, leaves stuck together with web may be the homes of spiders or grubs.

9. **What's in a heathland?**

The low shrubs around you are heathland plants.

Guess how many different species (kinds) of plants can be found in this heathland. There are over 80 recorded for this area. How many different species can you count?

Guess which one is the grass-tree.

Bush Pea (× 1/3)

10. **Coping — the burning question**

Heathland plants have ways of coping with fire too. For example, banksias, she-oaks and tea-trees also have thick capsules to protect their seeds from the heat of a fire.

And what you can't see is that most of these heathland plants have grown buds buried beneath the soil where they are protected from fire. After fire, these plants are able to grow again from these buds, using the food reserves stored in their roots.

11. **Help! Fire!**

If a fire was approaching, how would you escape being burnt? To survive, kangaroos and wallabies would hop to safety and birds would be able to fly away. Wombats seek safety in their burrows, and so do some lizards.

However, not all these animals would survive a fire and many may die afterwards due to the lack of food and shelter.

Can you spot a series of holes in the bank? These belong to lizards called **White's Skinks**, which dig and live in communal burrows. You may hear one of these Skinks scuttle into the burrow where they find protection from predators, the cold and occasional fires.

12. **Food for thought**

How do plants find enough minerals and water to grow in this poor sandy soil?

The leaves of nearly all the plants here are small and hard and this means that they don't lose as much water as soft, large leaves. In summer when water loss is likely to be greatest these plants go one step further and actually shed many of their leaves.

In the case of most heath plants we can only see the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, because there may be up to 6-10 times as much plant underground (in the form of roots) as there is above ground (leaves and stems). This means that each plant has lots of roots on the job to collect the water and minerals it needs to survive.

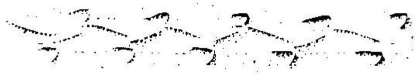
13. A glimpse

You are looking over Silver Swamp to part of Corner Inlet, with the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges in the distance.

14. Tracking

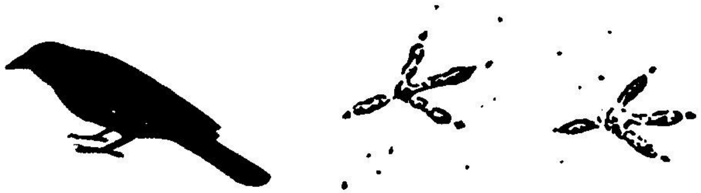
Seen any animals yet? They're often hard to find, especially during the day.

On sunny days, lizards often soak up the sun on the track. Perhaps you've heard them as they scuttle off to safety. This is what they leave behind on the sand...



Lizard tracks
(× 1/3)

Or you may have seen these tracks on the sand...



Currawong and tracks (× 1/3)

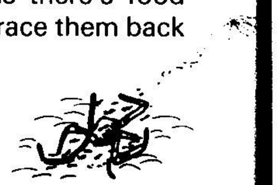
These are made by fairly large birds such as a currawong or magpie as they search the ground for insects and dead animals on which they feed.

15. Ant-i-litter campaign

Watch out for ants walking in single file. They're following a scent trail laid down by the leader, probably leading to some food.

If you find some ants clustered together it usually means there's food there; maybe a dead insect or caterpillar. Perhaps you can trace them back to their nest, where they carry their food.

Scavengers (animals that eat dead animals) like ants, currawongs and magpies are all important "cleaner-up-ers".



16. Try being a detective

You've already seen some of the evidence left behind by some animals.

Try your hand at working out where the **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos** have been feeding.

Look for bits of eaten cones and flowers on the ground near some of the banksias.

17. Why the change?

You can see a lot of bracken in this area.

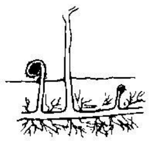
Bracken is a fern native to Australia but it is also found in other countries.

This area is subject to slashing each year as part of the fire management program carried out by the National Parks Service.

18. An underground story

Many plants grow new shoots from above-ground stems so that if they are slashed at ground level their growing ability is lost.

By contrast, bracken grows from underground stems (rhizomes) enabling it to survive slashing or burning. Bracken appears to be one of the few plants able to cope with repeated slashing.



Bracken rhizomes

19. Millers Hut

These are the remains of a hut used by park ranger W. Miller about 50 years ago. Provisions were shipped across Corner Inlet to this area and then taken by cart to the Darby Chalet.

"Prom" visitors in those days often came by boat across from Port Welshpool to Millers Landing. From here they could walk or travel by horse to the Chalet at Darby River.

Walk down to the mudflats; they're full of life. The mudflats are continually changing with the tides which means that any plants or animals living there must be able to survive both in and out of water.

20. Bonsai mangroves

You are looking at the southernmost mangrove trees in the world, and that's why they're stunted. Growing conditions for mangroves aren't too good here — it's getting too cold for them.

At high tide the mangroves are partially submerged by the sea which means that they have to cope with salt and with waterlogged mud.

Salt is able to enter plants and if it reaches too high a level it will kill the plant. These mangroves are able to grow in salt water because they can secrete this extra salt through special glands in their leaves.

At low tide you will see the unusual aerial root system of the mangroves.

Roots need air to be able to carry out their role of obtaining nutrients from the soil. The mud that these mangroves are growing in has very little air so these plants grow their roots upwards out of the mud and suck in air at low tide.

Some birds of the inlet

Many birds feed here at the inlet. **Black Swans** are plant eaters; those with their heads in the water are feeding on plants such as eel-grass which are made accessible as the tide retreats.

Cormorants are fishing birds. To help them dive for fish they have no waterproofing oil on their feathers; this means that air is not trapped between their feathers which would keep them buoyant. But this means they get wet! And that's why you sometimes see them standing with their wings out. They're drying off!

If the tide is out, explore the mud flats. You will probably see mud crabs, soldier crabs (they move in "armies") and a range of shellfish.

We hope you have enjoyed the walk and found out something about the change and survival going on around you.

To return to the gate, just retrace your steps.

16 Vereker Outlook (Map 1)

Spectacular views of Corner Inlet

Distance: 5.8 km **Time:** 1–1½ hours

This track starts on the Five Mile Road 1.4 km north-east of the Millers Landing car park. It climbs steeply up the sharply defined north-western spur of the Vereker Range which dominates the northern section of the park. The first few hundred metres of the track pass through Banksia woodland. Soon you reach more open ground, dotted with granite slabs and boulders. From Lookout Rock, panoramic views open up of the broad expanses of Corner Inlet on the one hand and on the other, of Darby Swamp and the dunes fringing Waratah Bay.

Continue up to Vereker Outlook from where you can enjoy even wider panoramas. Retrace your steps to the car park.

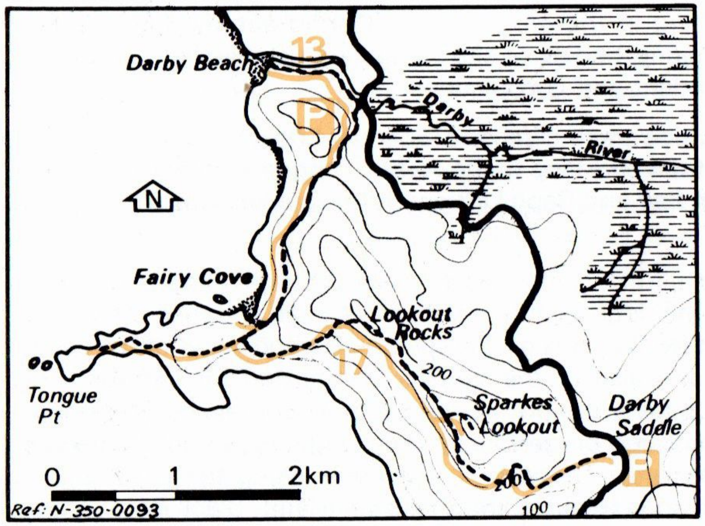
DAY WALKS

17 Tongue Point (Map 8)

A scenic bush and coastal walk.

Distance: 6.3km **Time:** 2.5 hours to Tongue Point; 1.5 hours Tongue Point to Darby River Carpark.

Map 8: Tongue Point, Darby River tracks

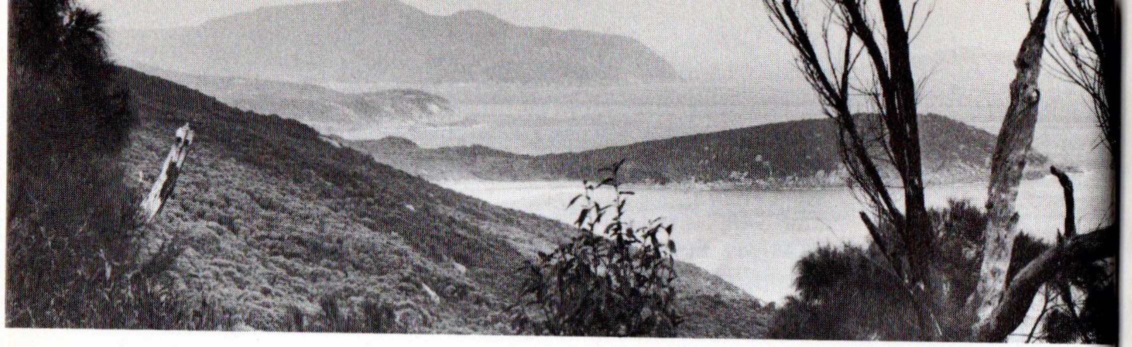


As the walk described starts at Darby Saddle and ends at Darby River, it's best to leave a vehicle at Darby River before starting. Otherwise, you can omit the last section and retrace your steps to Darby Saddle.

The Tongue Point track starts from Darby Saddle, 6.7 km north of Tidal River. It climbs gently from the woodland of Messmate and Shining Peppermint near the road and passes through thickets of White Kunzea, Scrub She-oak and Hairpin Banksia.

After the track reaches the shelter of the mountains, an open forest of Messmate with a ferny ground cover replaces the scrub. A few large old spreading trees still remain, although this area has been burnt during this century.

The track continues climbing gently and passes through groves of Drooping She-oak on the steep slopes near the ridge. A dense litter of she-oak



View over Pillar Point R. Chapman

needles carpets the ground, preventing all but a few other species from establishing in the ground layer. During autumn and winter, the slender black fruiting-bodies of the "Vegetable Caterpillar" (a kind of toadstool) are abundant and conspicuous.

A short side track climbs to Sparkes Lookout, from where there are fine views of the coastline to the south, Tongue Point itself, and in the distance Waratah Bay and Cape Liptrap. John Sparkes was a Park Ranger for many years.

The main track continues to pass through mature she-oak groves and follows the ridge as it descends to a saddle and then climbs fairly steeply to Lookout Rocks. This grassy spot gives good views of the eastern coast and islands and also of the Vereker Range and Mt Latrobe. The track then descends fairly rapidly, skirting a gully containing Messmate forest, and passes through progressively lower vegetation until it emerges suddenly in low heathland. The view to the north along the west coast can now be seen: obvious features are Shellback Island, Black Rock, Darby Beach and Waratah Bay.

The track briefly dips into a thicket of Coast Tea-tree in a slight depression, where it is joined by the track from Darby River, and then continues to the Point through wind-swept low heathland. Interesting plants you may see in the heathland include Paper-flower, Sea Box, Coast Ballart and Crimson Berry. It ends at some rocks overlooking what is almost a small island — the rocks linking it to the rest of the Point remain above sea level at high tide. Look for flocks of Short-tailed Shearwaters (Mutton-birds) over the sea here.

To reach Darby River, retrace your steps and take the Darby River track seen earlier. This passes through Drooping She-oak thickets, and, closer to Darby River, coastal scrub. Not far from the junction is a short side track leading to the small sandy beach at Fairy Cove.

The main track crosses a small creek (usually dry in summer) and climbs gently to the broad saddle where the granite ridge meets the high calcareous dunes behind Darby River. A dense wind-pruned scrub of Coast Tea-tree, Coast Beard-heath and Coast Ballart grows in the saddle and on the seaward slopes. The track then passes through taller and more open scrub on the sheltered side of the dune as it descends to the grassy flat at Darby River. During the descent you can obtain excellent views over Darby Swamp to Mt Leonard.

18 Oberon Bay (Map 9)

A scenic coastal walk.

Distance: 6.0 km **Time:** 2.5 hours each way

Take the track that starts near the information centre at Tidal River and leads to Norman Bay South (or walk along Norman Bay beach).

The Norman Bay South track climbs over the dunes behind the settlement, passing through Coast Tea-tree scrub. At the highest point, the tanks that supply the settlement with water pumped from Tidal River can be seen. The track then crosses a sealed road, a slashed firebreak and several low, parallel sand dunes. Nests of the Common Ringtail Possum are frequent in the tree and shrub canopy, and you may see a Koala in the eucalypts that grow between the dunes. Close to Norman Bay South the track passes through a thicket of Swamp Paperbark.

Between the south end of the beach and Norman Point the track climbs gently through Coast Tea-tree scrub, Drooping She-oak thickets, low eucalypt woodland, and, near the large rock outcrops, low heathland. From the ridge above Norman Point there are good views to the Anser and Glennie islands and south to Mt Norgate. Once around the point you go through taller she-oak thickets and moister eucalypt woodland on the sheltered south-eastern aspect, and emerge at the north end of Little Oberon Bay. Fresh water can usually be obtained from the small stream that loses itself in the white sands of the beach.

To continue to Oberon Bay, walk to the south end of the beach and take the track that starts from the higher ground behind the beach. The vegetation along this track is similar to that between Norman and Little Oberon Bays. Wombat diggings can usually be seen in the banks beside the track, and during the descent to Oberon Bay there are good views of the bay and Mt Norgate. Growlers Creek, at the end of the track, is salty, so water should be carried, although brackish but drinkable water may be obtained from Fraser Creek which enters the sea about halfway down the beach.

This walk may be extended by returning to Tidal River via the Lighthouse Track and the Mt Oberon car park (see Map 9).

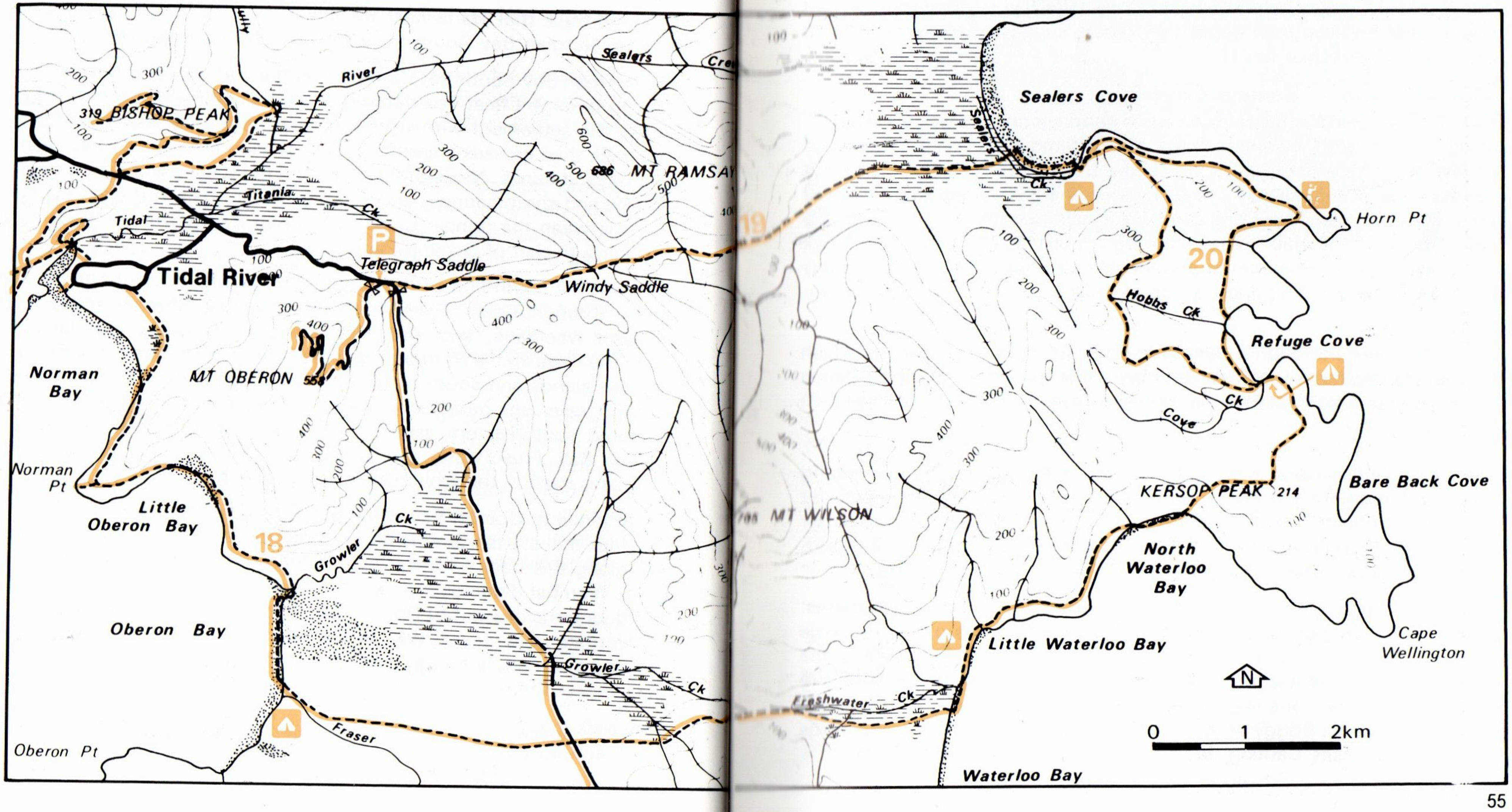
19 Sealers Cove (Map 9)

A popular bush walk ending at a secluded beach.

Distance: 9.5 km **Time**: 2.5 — 3 hours each way.

The track climbs gently from the Mt Oberon car park to Windy Saddle, between Mts Ramsay and Wilson, then descends to Sealers Cove, passing through Sealers Swamp for the last kilometre.

Map 9: Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay, Oberon Bay



Car park — Windy Saddle

After a short initial descent the wide, well-gravelled track climbs around a series of spurs on the northern slopes of the Mt Wilson Range. Close to the car park and on the exposed spurs, the track passes through rather dry low eucalypt forest of Brown Stringybark and Shining Peppermint containing Silky Hakea, Hairpin Banksia and Silver Banksia. Many other heathy plants in the dense understorey provide a fine display of wildflowers in spring. Of note are the tall specimens of Austral Grass-tree near the switchback (about 1.5 km from the car park) and the Lemon Bottlebrush growing around the large rock outcrops.

In the sheltered gullies, and as the track ascends to Windy Saddle, a taller forest of Messmate replaces the low Brown Stringybark forest. Common shrubs include Austral Mulberry, Hazel Pomaderris and Musk Daisy-bush. Ferns are found in the gullies, some of which contain thickets of Scented Paperbark laced with Coral-fern.

Many birds can be seen here, particularly various types of wren and honeyeater. In winter, the activities of the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos litter the track with segments of Hairpin Banksia flower-spikes.

From Windy Saddle itself, an open grassy area some 3 km from the car park, there are excellent views over the Titania Creek and Tidal River valleys and the valley behind Sealers Cove. The few large burnt logs and stumps that are scattered about the Saddle suggest that this area once supported tall eucalypt forest.

Windy Saddle — Sealers Cove

East of Windy Saddle the track, which is narrower and sometimes slippery, descends to Sealers Swamp around the sheltered south-eastern slopes of Mt Ramsay. Water is available along the track in all seasons. The moist microclimate is immediately made apparent by the increased number of ferns and mosses. Repeated bushfires have removed nearly all the eucalypts, and the track passes through moist scrub containing Musk Daisy-bush, Hazel Pomaderris and Prickly Currant-bush. On the many rocky spurs there is drier dense scrub of Prickly Tea-tree and Tree Broom-heath.

The track passes through a deep fern-filled gully ('Ferny Glade') in which Southern Sassafras is the dominant tree. A few specimens of Myrtle Beech and a recently-described Banksia (*Banksia saxicola*) may be seen just past the gully.

The track rounds several rocky spurs and then passes through regenerating stands of Messmate and Yellow Stringybark eucalypts. Two large eucalypt logs fallen across the track testify to the size of the trees in the past. After several steeper sections the first good view of Sealers Cove is obtained, and, to the south, the cliffs on the Mt Wilson Range can be seen.

The start of Sealers Swamp is marked by several large Swamp Paperbarks. This beautiful section of track passes through remnants of a once-large stand of Blackwood and Lilly-pilly growing on alluvial flats behind the Cove. Fish-bone Water-fern, Soft Tree-fern and many other ferns are abundant, and the cane-like Tall Saw-sedge is conspicuous. Boardwalks over the numerous boggy sections make walking easier and protect ferns and ground mosses. **Caution:** Boardwalks may be slippery after rain.

In the mid-nineteenth century a timber mill at Sealers Cove cut substantial quantities of Blackwood and eucalypt from the Swamp and surrounding hills. Twenty seven kilometres of tramway were built to carry timber to the beach. A few old stumps at the beach, part of the jetty, are the only obvious signs that remain of this activity.

Sealers Cove Jetty 1925 E. Arnold

After crossing two streams, the second and larger being Sealers Creek, the track reaches the beach. The camping area is among Messmates and Mountain Grey Gums on high ground across the creek at the southern end of the Cove. The creek crossing is difficult at high tide; if so, return to the large bridge over Sealers Creek and turn left along the track to the camping area. Water can usually be obtained from the stream flowing northwards through the camp. Camping is not permitted north of the creek.

OVERNIGHT HIKES: SOUTH

20 Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay (Map 9)

The Prom's most popular overnight walk.

Distance: 36km (circuit walk starting and finishing at Mt. Oberon Carpark)
Time: 2 - 3 days.
See Walk 19 for information on the track from the Mt Oberon car park to Sealers Cove.

Sealers Cove — Refuge Cove (Map 9)

Distance: 6.5 km **Time:** 1½–2 hours

This relatively new track follows a route which is closer to the coast and involves less climbing than the former inland track.

From the eastern side of the camping area at the southern end of Sealers Cove, the track crosses small bouldery gullies shaded by tall tree ferns. Then in marked contrast come the much drier stands of Coast Tea-tree, scattered Brown Stringybarks, Coast Banksias and youthful Austral Grass-trees. A short climb leads to a large granite boulder which affords fine views of Sealers Cove, majestic Cathedral Peak and beyond, part of Five Mile Beach. The track, undulating quite sharply in places, continues along the steep slope, strewn with coarse-grained granite boulders. There are thickets of She-Oaks and prickly Silky Hakea together with some stringybarks.

As you progress eastwards, more of the remote northern section of the park comes into view, including Johnny Souey Cove and Mt Hunter. About halfway to Refuge Cove the track climbs to a breathtaking lookout on massive granite boulders west of Horn Point. Most of the northern part of the park and the Seal Islands, well out to sea, are in view. A few metres further on, you can savour the prospect of the objective — Refuge Cove, as well as nearby Larkin Cove, and the distinctive pyramid of Rodondo Island on the horizon. From here the track swings sharply south-west and downhill into tall, fairly open forest of stringybarks and banksias. As it descends gradually across the slope (leading down to Smith Cove), the vegetation becomes much more luxuriant: ferns, Blanket-leaf and taller eucalypts.

Passing well inland of Hobbs Head (which separates Smith and Refuge Coves) the track leads back into drier open forest. The final descent to Hobbs Creek and North Refuge Cove Beach is through ferns and a dense grove of tea-tree. The camping area is just behind the beach at the southern end of the Cove and on the eastern side of Cove Creek. Fresh water can be collected from the creek upstream from the camping area.

Refuge Cove — Little Waterloo Bay

Distance: 8.0km **Time:** 3-4 hours

Refuge Cove — Kersops Peak

The track leaves the eastern end of Refuge Cove Beach and climbs steeply to a large open rock face and then through stunted Brown Stringybark woodland to the ridge. It follows the ridge for some distance through low heathy woodland, then drops sharply into a small gully, where Scented Paperbark and Wiry Bauera form a dense understorey to the eucalypt forest.

Once across the gully, the track quickly climbs to the main ridge leading to Kersops Peak. From Kersops Peak there are magnificent views south to the lighthouse and Rodondo and Curtis Islands. Whales are sometimes seen from here.

Kersops Peak — Little Waterloo Bay

The track then descends to the eastern end of North Waterloo Bay, at first through low rocky heathland with occasional boggy soaks supporting wet heath of Pink Swamp-heath and Wiry Bauera. Closer to North Waterloo Bay it drops steeply through Brown Stringybark woodland and low forest, and just before the beach is crossed by a small stream cascading between large boulders.

Halfway along the beach, a rocky point projects nearly to the water. A short track crossing the point leaves from the rear of the beach, although at low tide you can climb around the rocks. Water can be obtained from the stream that flows on to the sand on the other side of the point.

The track to Little Waterloo Bay leaves the south-western end of the beach and follows the coastline just above the rocks, crossed by several small streams and soaks as it passes through thickets of Drooping She-oak, Coast Banksia and Coast Tea-tree. Then it slowly climbs away from the rocks and goes further inland through open forest of Messmate and Yellow Stringybark. After crossing a deep fern gully you return to the coastal scrub and drop quickly to Little Waterloo Bay near the mouth of a small stream.

To find the campsite, cross the creek and follow it to the flats behind the foredune. The Lilly-pilly and Blackwood at this site form the southernmost stand of warm temperate rainforest in the world.

Little Waterloo Bay — Lighthouse Track

Distance: 6.3 km **Time:** 2 hours

The short track to Waterloo Bay starts from the campsite, climbs out of the creek valley into the coastal scrub above the beach and follows the coast to the north end of Waterloo Bay.

To continue to the Lighthouse Track, cross the creek and follow the track that leaves the beach about 0.3 km to the south (look carefully for the signpost at the back of the beach). On the dune immediately behind the beach the track crosses a wind-pruned heath containing dwarfed Brown

Stringybark shrubs less than 30 cm high. To the right can be seen the rugged cliffed slopes of Mt Wilson.

The track then descends into the first of a series of swampy sections containing paperbarks and many sedges. Lengthy boardwalks cross the wetter areas to protect the swamp communities and assist walking. Between the swampy sections, the higher ground supports heathland and low woodland of Brown Stringybark and Shining Peppermint.

Climbing gradually to a low saddle between Mts Wilson and Boulder, the track then skirts the lower flanks of Mt Boulder below a prominent group of large granite tors.

After the fifth (and last) boardwalk you climb on to calcareous sand dunes and follow a ridge through thickets of Coast Tea-tree, Coast Banksia and Drooping She-oak to the Lighthouse Track.

From this point you may follow the Lighthouse Track north and return to Tidal River via the Mt Oberon car park (the shorter route), or take the track to Oberon Bay and follow the west coast of the Promontory to Tidal River. For the remainder of this section see the notes on Walk 18

If you are heading for Half-way Hut or Roaring Meg, turn left. Half-way Hut is 1.2 km south from here. (See Walk 21).

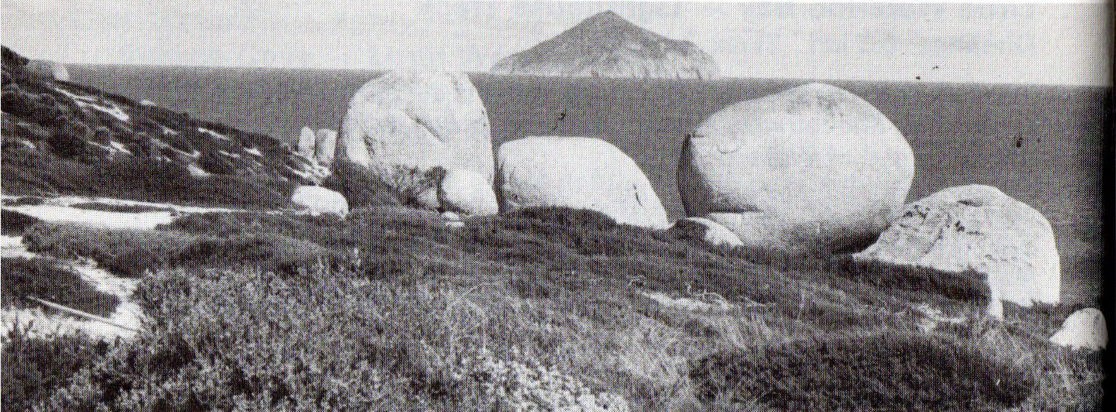
21 Lighthouse via the Halfway Hut and Roaring Meg (Map 10)

A scenic overnight walk

Distance: 17.8 km **Time:** 5-6 hours each way (from car park)

Follow the track south from Mt Oberon car park 7.7 km to the Halfway Hut. From the hut you can follow the fire-access track all the way to Roaring Meg camping area (5.6 km) or turn off on Martins Hill (signposted "Lighthouse via walk track") and walk to Roaring Meg (6 km from Halfway Hut).

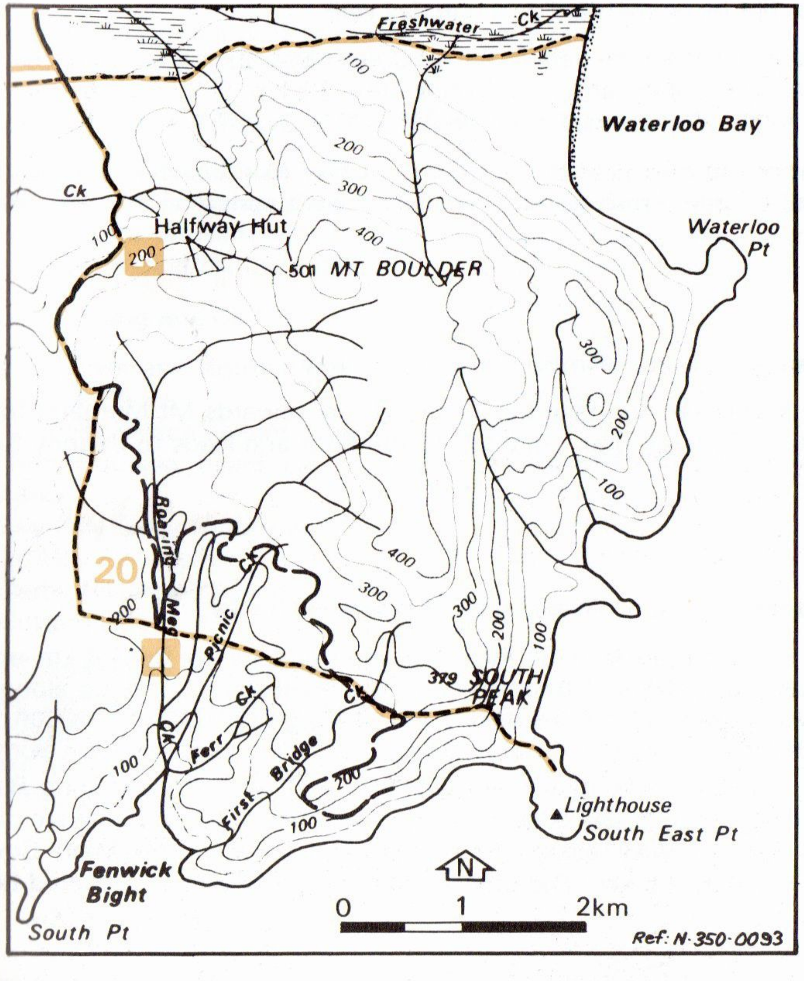
Rodondo Island from the Lighthouse Reserve R. Chapman



The walking track to the Lightstation from Roaring Meg starts across the footbridge from the lower camping area. It rejoins the management track briefly after 2.3 km and then follows the old telegraph line for 2.2 km to the Lightstation reserve. There are good views from the end of the management track. The Lightstation grounds are open Monday to Friday only, from 10 am to 4 pm.

The Lightstation is not part of the national park. Guided tours are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays only, from 10 am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm. It is essential to ring ((056) 80 8529) to make a booking.

Map 10: Lighthouse Track



OVERNIGHT HIKES: NORTH

No facilities are provided in the northern part of the park and overnight hikes should only be undertaken by those with bushwalking experience (see "Hiking and camping away from Tidal River").

The hikes all start from the car park on the Five Mile Road, 21 km from Tidal River (see Map 1).

22 Five Mile Beach via Barrys Creek and St Kilda Junction (Map 1)

Distance: 17.2 km **Time:** up to 5 hours each way

The track across to the Five Mile Beach is an exposed rough gravel road. Water is available from several creeks along the track except during summer. The return walk is not recommended as a one day walk.

The distance from the gate to Barrys Creek campsite is 7 km, and from Barrys Creek to Chinamans Creek picnic area, 3.5 km. From Chinamans Creek to St Kilda Junction is 4.5 km and Five Mile Beach is another 2.1 km.

The camping area is at the north end of Five Mile Beach at the mouth of Miranda Creek. Fresh water is available from a spring on the north side of Miranda Creek.

23 St Kilda Junction — Johnny Souey Cove (Map 1)

Distance: 4.7 km **Time:** 2 hours each way

At St Kilda Junction take the left hand fork towards Mt Margaret for 0.6 km. A steep track then branches to the right and leads to Johnny Souey Cove.

24 St Kilda Junction — Tin Mine Cove (Map 1)

Distance: 17.6 km **Time:** up to 5 hours each way.

Take the left branch at St Kilda Junction and follow for 4.8 km until it merges into a slashed track through the heathland. Continue along this track for a further 8 km to the track to the Mt Margaret automatic beacon. Take the left fork for 3.2 km to Chinaman Long Beach. Turn right and walk along the beach. A new track begins at the north end of Chinaman Long Beach. This is signposted, and eliminates the need for people to be aware of tide times for the walk along the beach. The track to Tin Mine Cove is approximately 1.5 km. The only reliable supply of water is located here.

25. Millers Landing — Chinaman Long Beach (Map 1)

Distance: 11 km **Time:** 3½–4 hours

This track, opened early in 1989, provides a welcome alternative return from or approach to the northern section, which enables you to avoid Five Mile Road.

The track links the southern end of Chinaman Long Beach and the Five Mile Road, just west of the Barry's Creek Camp (from the car park). It crosses the wide, low-lying valley of Chinaman Creek and the timbered fringes of the Vereker Range, and Barry's Creek. The track could be damp underfoot after heavy rain.

Index to the walks

The numbers given are walk numbers, not page numbers. Note that overnight hikes are excluded from this index.

Self-guided nature walks

4 Squeaky Beach Nature Walk
11 Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk
12 Mount Oberon Nature Walk
15 Millers Landing Nature Walk

Walks for young and old*

1 Tidal River and Norman Bay
3 Loo-errn Track
4 Squeaky Beach Nature Walk (from Squeaky Beach car park)
11 Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk (to Lilly Pilly Gully)
13 Darby River and Beach
14 Cotters Lake

*These walks are suitable for people with limited mobility, but note that there are sections of soft sand on some of the walks.

Coast and beach walks

1 Tidal River and Norman Bay
4 Squeaky Beach Nature Walk
5 Pillar Point
7 South Norman Bay, Little Oberon Bay
8 Picnic Bay
9 Whisky Bay
13 Darby River and Beach
14 Cotters Lake
15 Millers Landing Nature Walk
17 Tongue Point
18 Oberon Bay
19 Sealers Cove

Bushland walks

2 Whale Rock
11 Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk
12 Mount Oberon Nature Walk
16 Vereker Outlook
17 Tongue Point
19 Sealers Cove

Wildflower walks

6 Tidal Overlook
11 Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk
15 Millers Landing Nature Walk
17 Tongue Point

Bird walks

11 Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk
12 Mount Oberon Nature Walk
13 Darby River and Beach
14 Cotters Lake
17 Tongue Point
19 Sealers Cove

Spectacular views

4 Squeaky Beach Nature Walk
6 Tidal Overlook
7 South Norman Bay, Little Oberon Bay
8 Mount Bishop
12 Mount Oberon Nature Walk
16 Vereker Outlook
17 Tongue Point

Front cover: Whisky Bay, M. Callaghan
Back cover: Oberon Bay, G. Wallis
Frontispiece: Sealers Cove L. Roberts

Further information

A wide range of publications and information on Wilsons Promontory National Park is available from the information centre at Tidal River; ring (056) 80 8538, 8.30 am–4.30 pm daily.

The following publications provide useful information.

On the park

- The World of Wilsons Promontory, Jocelyn Burt, The Five Mile Press, 1984.
- Wilsons Promontory National Park and its Avifauna, R.P. Cooper, Bird Observers Club, Melbourne, 1975

On bushwalking (Not available at information centre)

- *Paddy Pallin's Bushwalking and Camping,* Tim Lamble, 12th edition, 1988.
- *Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership,* handbook of the Victorian Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Training Advisory Board, Department of Sport and Recreation, 1986.

Plant names

Austral Grass-tree	*Xanthorrhoea australis*
Austral Mulberry	*Hedycarya angustifolia*
Bidgee-widgee	*Acaena anserinifolia*
Black-anther Flax-lily	*Dianella revoluta*
Blackwood	*Acacia melanoxylon*
Blanket-leaf	*Bedfordia arborescens*
Blue Gum	*Eucalyptus globulus*
Bower Spinach	*Tetragonia implexicoma*
Bracken	*Pteridium esculentum*
Brown Stringybark	*Eucalyptus baxteri*
Coast Ballart	*Exocarpos syrticola*
Coast Banksia	*Banksia integrifolia*
Coast Beard-heath	*Leucopogon parviflorus*
Coast Pomaderris	*Pomaderris oraria*
Coast Tea-tree	*Leptospermum laevigatum*
Common Boobialla	*Myoporum insulare*
Common Heath	*Epacris impressa*
Coral Heath	*Epacris microphylla*
Crimson Berry	*Cyathodes juniperina*
Drooping She-oak	*Casuarina stricta*
Dusty Miller	*Spyridium parvifolium*
Dwarf She-Oak	*Casuarina pusilla*
Fish-bone Water-fern	*Blechnum nudum*
Gippsland Mallee	*Eucalyptus kitsoniana*
Hairpin Banksia	*Banksia spinulosa*
Hairy Spinifex	*Spinifex hirsutus*
Hazel Pomaderris	*Pomaderris aspera*
Kangaroo Apple	*Solanum aviculare*
Kidney Weed	*Dichondra repens*
Ladies' Tresses	*Spiranthes sinensis*
Large-leaf Bush-pea	*Pultenaea daphnoides*
Lemon Bottlebrush	*Callistemon pallidus*
Lilly-pilly	*Acmena smithii*
Mangrove	*Avicennia marina*
Manna Gum	*Eucalyptus viminalis*
Messmate	*Eucalyptus obliqua*
Mountain Ash	*Eucalyptus regnans*
Mountain Grey Gum	*Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*
Musk Daisy-bush	*Olearia argophylla*
Myrtle Beech	*Nothofagus cunninghamii*
Necklace Fern	*Asplenium flabellifolium*
Paper-flower	*Thomasia petalocalyx*
Pink Swamp-heath	*Sprengelia incarnata*
Pouched Coral-fern	*Gleichenia dicarpa*
Prickly Currant-bush	*Coprosma quadrifida*
Prickly Moses	*Acacia verticillata*
Prickly Tea-tree	*Leptospermum juniperinum*
Rough Guinea-flower	*Hibbertia aspera*
Saltbush	*Rhagodia baccata*
Saw Banksia	*Banksia serrata*
Scented Paper-bark	*Melaleuca squarrosa*
Scrub She-oak	*Casuarina paludosa*
Sea Box	*Alyxia buxifolia*
Shining Peppermint	*Eucalyptus nitida*
Silky Hakea	*Hakea sericea*
Silky Tea-tree	*Leptospermum myrsinoides*
Silver Banksia	*Banksia marginata*
Small-leaved Clematis	*Clematis microphylla*
Soft Tree-fern	*Dicksonia antarctica*
Southern Sassafras	*Atherosperma moschatum*
Swamp Gum	*Eucalyptus ovata*
Swamp Paperbark	*Melaleuca ericifolia*
Tall Saw-sedge	*Gahnia clarkei*
Tree Broom-heath	*Monotoca elliptica*
White Kunzea	*Kunzea ambigua*
Wiry Bauera	*Bauera rubioides*
Woolly-style heath	*Epacris lanuginosa*
Yellow Stringybark	*Eucalyptus muellerana*